花とゆめCOMICS

ざ・ちぇんじ!

山内直実 原作 氷室冴子 2

花とゆめ COMICS

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ざ・ちぇんじ!〔2〕

山内直実

882

白泉社

花とゆめCOMICS

白泉社

●山内直実の本

蕨ケ丘物語

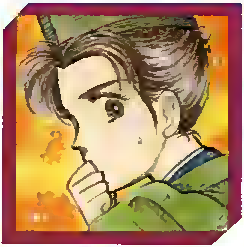
雑居時代　全3巻

ざ・ちぇんじ！　全4巻

なんて素敵にジャパネスク　①

――花とゆめコミックス――

カードギャラリー　山内直実



作品かいせつ

実は姫君なのに若君として育った綺羅君。元服！出仕!!結婚!!!と思わぬ展開に本人も身内も大騒ぎ!!（女とバレない様に…）と日々心安まらない綺羅君に帝のイヤミが輪をかけるしその上、本当は若君で弟の綺羅姫の出仕が決まったから、どぉしよう!!!しかも更に大パニック第2巻!!

集英社文庫コバルト・シリーズ「ざ・ちぇんじ！」より

花とゆめCOMICS

The Changelings (The Change!)

Chapter 2

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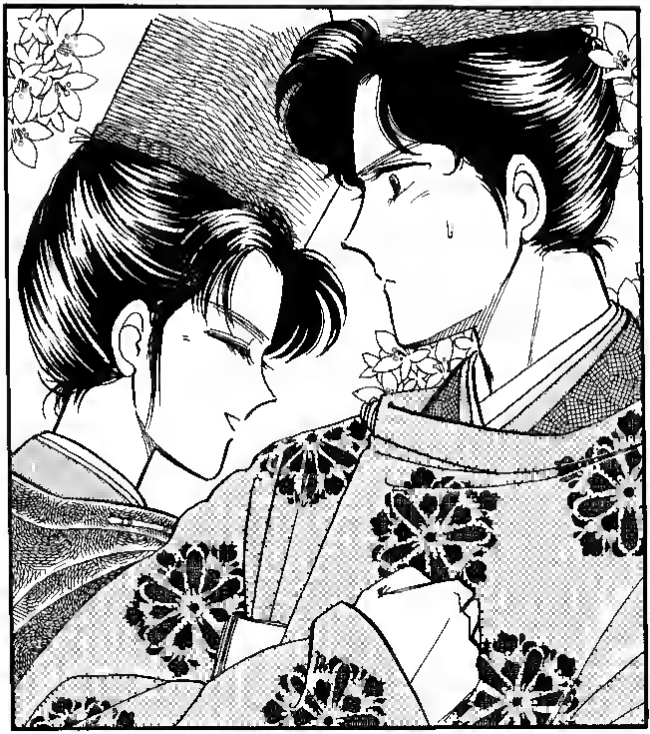

これまでのあらすじ

平安時代も半ば、権大納言（今は左大臣）家に生まれた姉弟は、とある事情で、姉は男君、弟は女君として育てられたのでした。姉の綺羅君は北嵯峨に家出した折、帝に裸を見られ、帝は一目惚れ。しかも帝はその時の綺羅を弟の綺羅姫だと思い込み、綺羅姫の面影を求めて綺羅の出仕を計ったのですが、あまりのそっくりさに（本物だから当然ですけど）思わず心が動いてしまいます。そんな折、綺羅と三の姫の結婚の噂が流れ、真に受けてしまった帝の売り言葉に、綺羅は三の姫との結婚を認める羽目になってしまいました。ただでさえ女とバレぬよう気を遣う毎日に、結婚に対する帝の嫉妬まじりのイヤミと〝いろは〟（現代の〝ABC〟のことです）の意味を尋ねる三の姫のしつこさにヘトヘトの綺羅なのですが…

綺羅君（姉）

実は♀の子!!

綺羅姫（弟）

実は♂の子!!

帝（主上）

'綺羅、に夢中!!

'いろは、に夢中!!

三の姫

Once upon a time, long ago, two siblings were born into the Sadaijin household
The daughter was raised as a boy, while the son was given a girl's upbringing
Moreover, the female Lord Kira
got married unexpectedly and against her will to another lady
causing much uproar in both herself and the people around her
Furthermore, the Emperor, who DISTINCTLY favored Lord Kira was overcome with jealousy and so, began to rebuke her incessantly
Mock Jeer Taunt Carp Sarcastic Satirize
Not a day went by without something unpleasant happening
EXHAUSTED

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A NEW INTERPRETATION
OF TORIKAEBAYA MONOGATARI*

とりかえばや!

The Change!

*Torikaebaya Monogatari = The Changelings, a classical 12th century Japanese novel.

SIGH
I DON'T
AT ALL
FEEL LIKE ATTENDING TO THE EMPEROR
HE'S GOING TO MAKE SARCASTIC REMARKS TO ME AGAIN
BECAUSE I SNATCHED THE 3RD LADY AWAY FROM RIGHT UNDER HIS NOSE
JUST BECAUSE SHE'S ONE OF THE EMPEROR'S CONSORTS
AND I'LL HAVE TO BE COURTEOUS TO THAT AIRHEAD LADY UMETSUBO

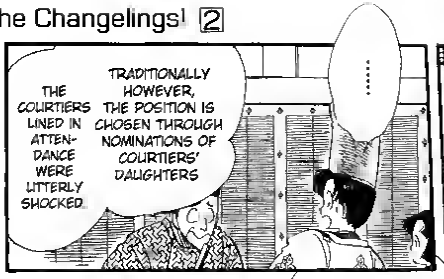
I KNOW
I CAN'T AVOID MY PROBLEMS FOREVER JUST BY RUNNING BACK HOME.
...
Kira-sama, won't you please tell me?
Please? Pretty please?
PLUS, THE 3RD LADY KEEPS ON HARASSING ME TO EXPLAIN "ABC"
BUT I'M SO PARANOID THAT SOMEONE AT UDAIJIN'S WILL FIND OUT MY SECRET...
THAT I'M ACTUALLY A WOMAN
sigh
AND THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO GET MARRIED
IF I'D KNOWN THIS WOULD HAPPEN, I'D HAVE NEVER ATTENDED TO GENPUKU IN THE FIRST PLACE...

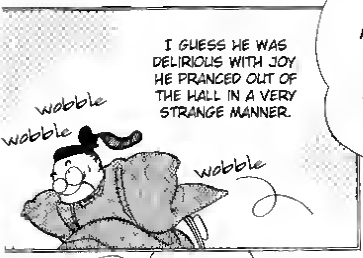
Easy!
BUT SINCE THAT, HE'S BEEN LIVING AN EASY LIFE
YES, HE WAS FORCED TO UNDERGO A MOGI CEREMONY
AAH.. COMPARED TO MY BROTHER WHO'S IN THE SAME BOAT AS I AM, MY SITUATION IS SO MUCH WORSE
I'D HAVE BEEN FAR MORE SUITABLE FOR HIM THAN SOME WOMAN LIKE UMETSUBO!!
Whoa!
Yeah
I COULD HAVE BEEN AN IMPERIAL CONSORT OR AN EMPRESS
IF THINGS HAD GONE WELL, I MIGHT HAVE BEEN RECEIVED INTO THE BACK PALACE
IF I WAS RAISED AS A LADY, RIGHT?
IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THAT BAD
I've got the looks
HONESTLY
!?
RATTLE

I SEE.
WE CAN'T GO TO THE PALACE WITH SUCH A BAD OMEN
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. WE'LL RETURN TO UDAIJIN'S
YES, SIR!
UM...
THERE'S A DEAD CAT OBSTRUCTING THE ROADWAY, MY LORD.
OH?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
CREAK CREAK
Heh
UDAIJIN'S MANOR
A BAD OMEN?
No more of the Emperor's nagging.
I CAN ESCAPE ROYAL ATTENDANCE FOR A WHILE
I'VE FOUND AN EXCUSE NOT TO GO TO WORK!"
YIPPEE!
GAGAGA
IF A BAD OMEN WAS ENCOUNTERED AFTER LEAVING THE HOUSE, THEN ONE HAD TO RETURN HOME TO CLEANSE THE BODY.

I SEE
I HEARD YOU WERE ABSENT AGAIN, SO I THOUGHT SOMETHING BAD HAD HAPPENED.
AH ...
HRM
ha ha
COME ON...
I'M NOT SKIPPING WORK WITHOUT A GOOD REASON
NEWS HAS REACHED MY EARS THAT
HIS MAJESTY WISHES TO RECEIVE LADY KIRA INTO COURT AS NAISHINOKAMI*
HOWEVER, KIRA-SAN,
I FEEL THAT YOU'D BETTER ATTEND TO HIS MAJESTY TODAY...

* Naishinokami = Principal Handmaid


THE COURTIERS LINED IN ATTENDANCE WERE UTTERLY SHOCKED.
TRADITIONALLY HOWEVER, THE POSITION IS CHOSEN THROUGH NOMINATIONS OF COURTIERS' DAUGHTERS
.....


I GUESS HE WAS DELIRIOUS WITH JOY HE PRANCED OUT OF THE HALL IN A VERY STRANGE MANNER.
MY BROTHER SEEMED TO TAKE IT HARDER THAN MOST
wobble
wobble
wobble

CONSIDERING YOUR SISTER'S FAMILY STATUS,
FOR HER TO CLIMB UP THE IMPERIAL CONSORT'S LADDER ISN'T JUST A DREAM
AAH, HOW I ENVY MY LUCKY BROTHER!
TH

WOULD IT NOT IT BE INCREDIBLE IF HIS MAJESTY HAPPENS TO FANCY HER?
YOU SEE, ALTHOUGH NAISHINOKAMI IS A FEMALE SCRIBE FOR ROYALTY,
ガーン!!

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THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO ENVY HERE!!
NAISHINOKAMI
NO WAY
LADY KIKA IS...
A GUY
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!!
KIRA-SAMA
A CARRIAGE FROM YOUR FATHER, SADAIJIN, IS HERE FOR YOU, SIR
IT MUST BE IMPOR-TANT. MAKE HASTE!
WE'LL DEAL WITH THE CLEANSING OF THE BAD OMEN LATER!
GO, GO!
B-
BUT...

SADAIJIN'S MANOR
UGH
THIS IS A COMPLETE MESS!!
W-WHAT'S WITH THIS GLOOMY ATMOSPHERE?
TAP TAP TAP TAP
OUMI
MY LORD HAS... HE HAS.
OH, KIRA-SAN! SOMETHING BAD HAS HAPPENED!!
WHAT?
HE'S COME DOWN WITH SOME KIND OF BRAIN SICKNESS!!

BANG
FATHER!!
HE CAME BACK HOME, HIS FACE AN ODD SHADE OF BLUE...
.....
THEN HE SHUT HIMSELF IN HIS ROOM AND STARTED TO LAUGH HYSTERICALLY BY HIMSELF. SOON AFTER, HE BEGAN TO ROLL ABOUT AND BAWL LIKE A CHILD.
DEPRESSED
OH
SNIFF SNIFF
I-I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE
HIS MAJESTY DEMANDED THAT LADY KIRA...
GRAWLL!!
KIRA?

FATHER !?
GUR-
GLE
HIEE
HIEE
HIEE
HIEE
Ki-
K-
LADY K.
TODAY,
THE EMPEROR SUDDENLY BROUGHT IT UP
AFTER ALL THE OFFICIAL WORK FOR THE DAY WAS FINISHED...
Oh, dear
ALL OF THE COURTIERS THERE WERE IN SHOCK, SO LORD GENNO-DAINAGON MASATAKA-KYOU
I FEEL THAT IT'S TOO SUDDEN, YOUR MAJESTY SUCH A CASE HAS NEVER OCCURRED IN COURT ASSEMBLY BEFORE
PERHAPS IF YOUR MAJESTY WOULD CONSIDER POSTPONING...
I TRIED TO ADVISE AGAINST THE IDEA.
GLARE!!
...!!

ALREADY BECOME OFFICIAL !?
YES
THE ROYAL DECREE WILL SOON BE SENT OUT
W-WAIT
YOU MEAN MY BROTHER'S ADMITTANCE INTO THE PALACE AS NAISHINOKAMI HAS ..
UAHHH
AFTER THAT, HE PRESUMED THE MATTER CLOSED AND DIDN'T EVEN CONSULT ME ON MY OPINION.
AND OF COURSE, NO ONE DARED TO CONTRADICT HIM
THE SECRET IS 'OIN' TO BE EXPOSED
THIS HOUSEHOLD IS FINISHED
.....
SAG
ke
ke
ke
ke
ke
THE EMPEROR WILL SURELY PUNISH EVERY ONE OF US
WHAT DID I...
WORK SO HARD TO COVER UP?
I EVEN ENDURED THIS MISERABLE MARRIAGE
TO KEEP THE SECRET UNDER THE MAT!
WHAT THE HELL COULD THE EMPEROR BE THINKING?
BLAST IT!!

AH
tremble
Despica-ble!
HOW COULD HE FORCE HER TO BE A NAISHINOKAMI?
THE LADY WHO TRIED TO TAKE HER OWN LIFE BECAUSE SHE WAS TO BE FORCED INTO A MARRIAGE AGAINST HER OWN WILL, CAN'T HE SHOW SOME COMPASSION?
THE GIRL HE MET AT KITASAGA AND WHO HE IS NOW MISTAKING FOR MY BROTHER,
IF HE STILL CARES FOR ME,
I'LL PRETEND THAT I PLAN TO TAKE UP MONASTICISM.
THEN EVERYONE WILL FEEL SORRY FOR THE 3RD LADY WITH A 'DELUSIONAL HUSBAND'. THAT WAY SHE'LL BE LEFT OUT OF THIS MESS!
I KNOW WHAT TO DO, FATHER
I'LL BECOME A MONK
HUH?
MAYBE IF
.....
JUST LEAVE THAT TO ME!!
YOU? BECOME A MONK!? WHAT FOR!?
HIS MAJESTY WANTS LADY KIRA...

THE COURT
TOMORROW I'M GOING TO SETTLE THINGS WITH HIM ONCE AND FOR ALL!
Huh? Take it easy. Hey.
IF I SAY THAT I INTEND TO BECOME A MONK, EVERYTHING SHOULD BE SOLVED!!
HAVING LADY KIKA BECOME NAISHINOKAMI
JOY
KIKA IS AN OVER-PROTECTIVE BROTHER. IF HIS SISTER MOVES TO COURT
HE'LL BE SO CONCERNED THAT HE'LL HAVE TO VISIT HER EVERYDAY.
Heh.
WHAT A BRILLIANT MOVE. I'M SUCH A GENIUS

HE LOVES HIS SISTER THAT MUCH
All right All right
Don't you dare lay a hand on my sister
HE WON'T EVEN HELP SAISHOUNO-CHUUJOU, HIS BUDDY, TO WIN HER HEART
HE HE
HEY
SO NOW HE WON'T HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT THE 3RD LADY ANYMORE.
EH!?
Glee
I've been waiting
HE MUST BE AGONIZING OVER HIS SISTER'S SITUATION
SEE? SO QUICK
KIRA-NO-SANMINO-CHUUJOU HAS ASKED -SAMA FOR AN URGENT ATTENDANCE YOUR MAJESTY
OH.

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HE'S... FURIOUS ...!?
HOW COME?
Y-YOU ...LOOK UPSET.
I'M HERE TO INFORM YOUR MAJESTY THAT I'LL BE TAKING UP MONASTICISM
.....

WITH THAT, COULD YOUR MAJESTY PLEASE ANNUL THE ROYAL ORDER THAT APPOINTS MY SISTER AS NAISHINOKAMI?
ONLY BY BECOMING ORDAINED CAN I REDEEM MYSELF AND THE 3RD LADY. YOU SHALL BE AT PEACE AGAIN, YOUR MAJESTY.
I'VE BEEN THINKING. AND IT WAS A TERRIBLE SIN OF MINE TO STEAL THE LADY YOUR MAJESTY FANCIED.
.....?
MONAS-TICISM !?
TO HAVE TO FACE THE HARDSHIPS OF THE BACK PALACE
I DON'T WISH FOR MY GUILELESS BRO-ER.. SISTER
ISN'T THAT TOO UNKIND A PUNISHMENT, YOUR MAJESTY!?
JUST TO UPSET AND ADMONISH ME.
YOUR MAJESTY HAS DEMANDED THAT MY NAIVE SISTER ENTER THE COURT

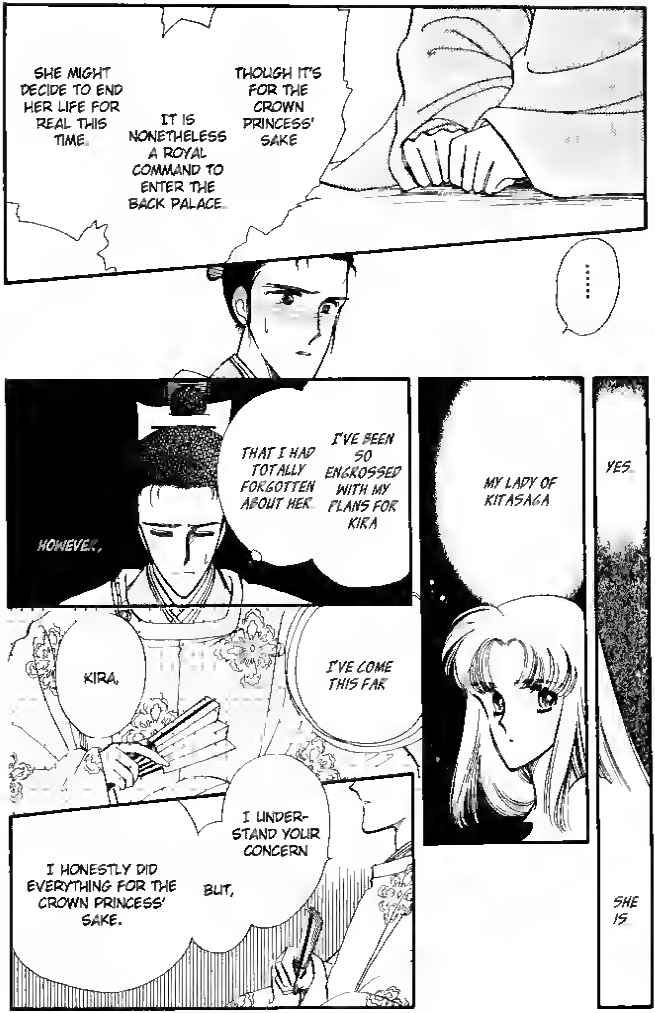
EVEN IF YOUR MAJESTY HOLDS A GRUDGE AGAINST ME,
OR EVEN IF YOU CANNOT FORGET THE 3RD LADY...
.....
HE DID TAKE IT BADLY, AFTER ALL
HE TOTALLY BOUGHT IT MY LIE THAT I WANTED TO
RECEIVE THE 3RD LADY AS MY CONSORT
BUT KIKA IS...
WILLING TO ABANDON THE 3RD LADY FOR MONASTICISM
SNICKER
IN ORDER TO PROTECT HIS FRAIL AND INNOCENT LITTLE SISTER

I'VE LONG FORSAKEN MY DESIRE FOR THE 3RD LADY.
KIRA,
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG.
PIERCING GLARE...
HAVE YOU, YOUR MAJESTY...?
I DID LASH OUT AT HIM QUITE SEVERELY.
I GOT IT.
OH, WELL, YOU SEE,
I KNOW I GAVE YOU A HARD TIME KIRA
BUT THAT WASN'T OUT OF SPITE BECAUSE OF MY ATTACHMENT TO THE 3RD LADY
THAT'S WHY,
THIS ORDER HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE 3RD LADY
THE CROWN PRINCESS!?
EVERYTHING I DID WAS FOR THE CROWN PRINCESS, NAGANO-MIYA
COMPARED TO ME AND MY WIVES
I ENVY YOU FOR HAVING A GOOD LIFE AFTER MARRIAGE.
WHO CAN'T SEEM TO GET ALONG WITH EACH OTHER AT ALL...

T/N: * We translated Nagano-miya's title as Crown Princess, however the term Crown princess is only used for the Heiress Apparent to the throne who cannot be displaced from inheriting. In fact, Nagano-miya is not an Heiress Apparent but rather an Heiress Presumptive who is provisionally scheduled to inherit a throne, but whose position can be displaced by the birth of an heir apparent or of a new heir presumptive with a better claim to the throne.

I KNOW FIRSTHAND HOW AWKWARD IT IS
TO BE THE DIRECT HEIR TO THE THRONE
AS YOU KNOW, THE CROWN PRINCESS* NAGANO-MIYA DETESTS HER POSITION.
EVERYONE FAWNS OVER HER BECAUSE SHE IS THE FIRST-IN-LINE
BACK THEN I RESORTED TO SPORTS OR HUNTING TO RELIEVE THE STRESS
BUT SHE'S A WOMAN, AND THUS, LACKS SUCH OUTLETS.
SHE'S BECOME NOTORIOUSLY SPOILED AND SELF-CENTERED
SHE NEEDS A FRIEND
A SISTER FIGURE WITH A FIRM HAND AND COMPASSION
SOMEONE WITH A RANK THAT NAGANO-MIYA CAN'T EASILY LOOK DOWN UPON OR DISRESPECT.

I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND
YOUR MAJESTY
sweat
Still doubtful
HE SOUNDS SERIOUS
HE CAN'T BE LYING, RIGHT?
.....
THE CROWN PRINCESS'
COMPANION...
SO MY WISH...
ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE 3RD LADY.
IT WAS MY IDIOCY TO MISTAKE THAT THIS MATTER HAD
IN ORDER TO ESCAPE AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE ...!
SHE ONCE TRIED TO DROWN HERSELF.
AH...!
IT STILL WON'T DO, YOUR MAJESTY! TO HAVE MY SISTER ENTER THE COURTS...
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?


SHE MIGHT DECIDE TO END HER LIFE FOR REAL THIS TIME.
IT IS NONETHELESS A ROYAL COMMAND TO ENTER THE BACK PALACE.
THOUGH IT'S FOR THE CROWN PRINCESS' SAKE
.....
HOWEVER...
THAT I HAD TOTALLY FORGOTTEN ABOUT HER.
I'VE BEEN SO ENGROSSED WITH MY PLANS FOR KIRA
KIRA,
I'VE COME THIS FAR
I HONESTLY DID EVERYTHING FOR THE CROWN PRINCESS' SAKE.
BUT,
I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN
MY LADY OF KITASAGA
YES.
SHE IS

B.G.M.
仕事中のBGMは何かと質問がよく来ますが、音楽に対してポリシーを持たないいわたしは何でも聞きます。
ジャンルにこだわりません。
ミーハーなもので。
けど ちぇんじ!に限っては ネームと下絵の時に音楽は聞きません。
あわないもんで。
EVEN THOUGH THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY, YOUR MAJESTY,
WHEN YOU SEE MY SISTER?
WILL YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND
...
MY DEAR LADY...
HAS GROWN EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL I SEE...
REST ASSURED!
I WON'T HAVE THOSE KIND OF THOUGHTS
BUT

EH?
I WON'T SEE HER AT ALL.
IN THAT CASE, SENYOUDEN, IT'LL BE
HER CHAMBER SHALL BE THE FURTHEST ONE FROM MY MANOR, SEIRYOUDEN
NOW YOU CAN'T DOUBT MY INTENTIONS FOR HER ANYMORE
THIS PLACE IS NOT TOO FAR FROM THE CROWN PRINCESS' MANOR, SHOUYOUSHA
BU-
BUT...
SHOULD A SITUATION ARRIVE
I PROMISE THAT YOU'LL BE PRESENT THE WHOLE TIME.
WHEREIN I MUST MEET WITH HER,

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
W...
KIRA, YOU MAY ACT AS YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE.
SHOULD I TURN BACK ON MY WORDS,
...
IT SEEMS MY THREAT TO BECOME A MONK IS FUTILE...
I'VE BEEN MOST SINCERE AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD
AND YOU STILL WON'T TRUST ME, KIRA?
N-NO, YOUR MAJESTY
BUT TO FULFILL HER DUTY AS NAISHI-NOKAMI,
SHE IS BOUND
TO MEET OTHER COURTIERS TOO...

DON'T WORRY.
HOW WOULD OTHER MEN HAVE A CHANCE OF DOING SO?
BESIDES, IF I MYSELF CAN'T MEET HER,
BUT...
NAISHINOKAMI IS A POSITION OF HONOR
LADY KIRA WILL BE TAKING EXCELLENT CARE OF THE CROWN PRINCESS.
I HOPE THE SADAIJIN FAMILY WILL RETURN THAT WITH UTMOST LOYALTY
I'VE ENTRUSTED WITH SUCH AN IMPORTANT TASK WITH ALL MY HEART,
VISIT AND
ME..?
IF YOU'RE THAT WORRIED,
VISIT AND MONITOR HER WELL-BEING EVERYDAY YOURSELF.

AND FOR THE SAKE OF OUR COUNTRY!!
FOR THE NEXT SUCCEEDING EMPEROR,
FOR THE CROWN PRINCESS,
SANJOU MANSION (DAIJIN'S)
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
BUT-
FOR THE CROWN PRINCESS ...?
REALLY? BUT THE WAY HE MENTIONED IT YESTERDAY...
NORMALLY NAISHINOKAMI WOULD LIVE IN UNMEIDEN MANSION, BUT HIS MAJESTY SAID
THAT HE'LL ARRANGE FOR SENYOUDEN, THE MANSION FURTHEST AWAY.

SERIOUSLY!!?
IT DOES MAKE SENSE
BESIDES, SENYOUDEN IS CLOSE TO NASHITSUBO MANSION WHERE THE CROWN PRINCESS LIVES
AAAH
MY HEAD IS SPINNING
Wobble
Wobble
IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT YOU ANYMORE NOW WE'LL HAVE TO BE ON EDGE FOR THE OTHER KIRA'S SECRET AS WELL...
I- I CAN'T BEAR IT ANYMORE
THINGS HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF HAND I'LL HAVE TO PLAY ALONG...
BAM
BANG!!
THUD
THUD!
!?
I SHOULD MAKE A DOS AND DON'TS IN COURT LIST FOR MY BROTHER
THAT'S THE LEAST I COULD DO FOR HIM..
SO WHAT!
I CAN'T GO AND UNDO WHAT'S BEEN DONE ANYMORE!

SOME GOSSIPING MAID LET THE NEWS SLIP.
IT'S KIRA OF THE EAST MANSION.
WH-WHAT?
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN TO MOTHER!?
HE NOW THROWS RIOTOUS FITS JUST LIKE MASAKO, YOUR MOTHER
BUT INSTEAD OF PASSING OUT LIKE BEFORE,
It's just as scary
ALL THE MAIDS FLED IN FEAR.
SILLY CHILD...!
WHO DO YOU THINK I DID EVERYTHING FOR!!
EXCUSE ME!
IS LADY KIRA IN!?
BANG
WOOSH!!

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T/N *Go = A board game with black and white stones
60 PIECES!?
WHO THE HELL...
CLATTER CLATTER
.....
IS THIS "LADY"...!?
どど～～
W-
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
WHA

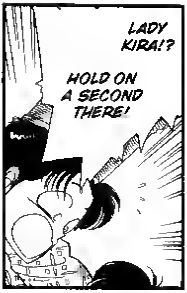
NOT AS A CONSORT,
JUST WORKING IN THE PALACE
I'M A MAN, YOU KNOW, A MAN!!
WHAT'S WRONG? ME IN THE BACK PALACE! THE BACK PALACE!
WHAT IF HE SUDDENLY, CONVE-NIENTLY CHANGES HIS MIND AND MEANS IT 'THAT WAY'!?
B-BUT
HIS MAJESTY GAVE HIS WORD THAT HE DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY..
None dear
But I told you
AND WHICH PART OF MY BODY SAYS I CAN SERVE AS A CONCUBINE !!?
NAISHINO-KAMI IS JUST A FANCY WORD FOR CONCU-BINE!!
ISN'T THAT THE SAME!?
I've read history and Genji monogatari for God's sake
I WON'T DO IT!!
PER-FORMING DESPIC-ABLE ACTS WITH A MAN...
BE...BE SIDES,
BESIDES ...
JUST IMAGINING OTHER PEOPLE SEEING ME CROSS-DRESS LIKE THIS..
I'M SO ASHAMED I COULD DIE!!
Wahhhh
Wahhhh
...

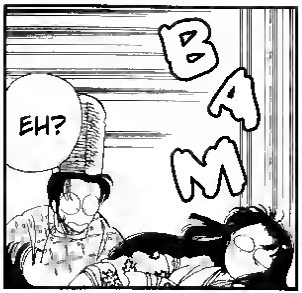
NEE-SAMA...
HE'S ARRANGED FOR YOUR CHAMBER TO BE IN THE DEEPEST CORNER OF THE PALACE...
I TOLD YOU, THE EMPEROR AND COURTIERS WON'T BOTHER YOU.
IT... IT'S GOING TO BE FINE
GLANCE
HE HAS ARRANGED ...?
Um.
WELL..
KINDA... YES
HAS FATHER ALREADY AGREED TO THIS?
YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE MATTER HAS ALREADY BECOME OFFICIAL!?
...

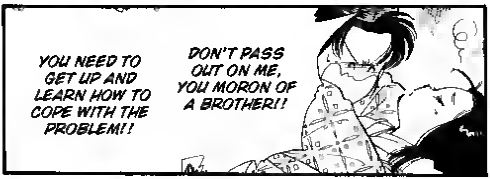
Character.

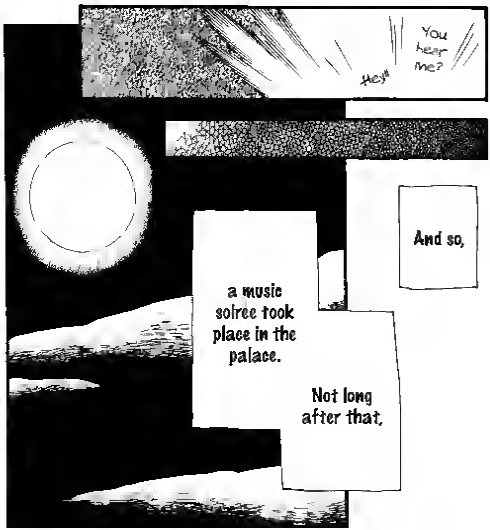
いちばん好きなキャラは誰ですかと よく質問がきますがそれぞれにみんな好きです。
主人公はもちろんのこと ワキ役もライ役もきっとこんな性格だろうなーなんて見いつつ 入れ込んで描いてますから。

やりと薄めれちゃって3悔妻女創だって描いて3と憎めないてすねぇ









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hah.
Ohhh.
REALLY
HE'S SO BEAUTIFUL
HE'S BEEN BUSY PREPARING HIS SISTER'S
ROYAL RECEIVING CEREMONY
HE'S GROWN THINNER AND PALER.
BUT IT MADE HIM EVEN MORE ATTRACTIVE
TRUE, TRUE
RUMOR SAYS THAT LADY NAISHINOKAMI
WILL BRING ALONG 40 MAIDS; IS THAT TRUE?
THAT'S THE SAME AS THE RECEIVING CEREMONY FOR AN IMPERIAL CONSORT.
THAT MUST BE HIS MAJESTY'S ACTUAL INTENT.
MAKING HER NAISHINOKAMI IS JUST AN EXCUSE. HIS HIGHNESS MUST ACTUALLY...

EVERYDAY
I'M BUSTLING ABOUT BETWEEN HOME, UDAIJIN'S MANOR, AND THE PALACE
AND AM UTTERLY EXHAUSTED
ONLY A MONTH UNTIL HE'LL BE IN COURT
SIGH
I HAVE TO LECTURE MY BROTHER ON COURT ETIQUETTE
STARTING FROM WHICH POLITICAL FIGURES ARE BEHIND EACH IMPERIAL CONSORT, TO LITTLE THINGS
LIKE THE LANGUAGE IN COURT AND THE COURT LADY'S MANNER OF FLATTERING
HE KNOWS IT'S NECESSARY TO REMEMBER ALL THESE THINGS
BUT...
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!!
Crash
BANG
RATTLE

I'M A MAN!
HOW CAN I ACT ALL NINNY PRISSY LIKE A GIRL!!
YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN! OR WE'LL ALL BE RUINED!
NOW! A SWEET SMILE WITH A TOUCH OF GENTILITY...
grab
Ahh!
THUD
IF I'M TOO HARSH HE'LL EITHER THROW A TANTRUM OR FAINT ON ME
.....
AT UDAIJIN'S HOUSE...
BUT THE HEADACHE
GOOD THING SAYURI WILL TAG ALONG TO TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING AFTER THAT
NOT TO MENTION, I ALSO HAVE TO HANDPICK MAIDS WHO CAN KEEP THEIR MOUTHS SHUT ON HIS SECRET
And good maids are hard to find these days

THE 3RD LADY'S OLDEST SISTER HOLDS THE RANK OF IMPERIAL CONSORT KOKIDEN
AND WHENEVER I'M THERE, THE 3RD LADY ASKS
THAT WE DON'T INTEND TO COMPETE WITH HIS DAUGHTER
EVERY TIME I VISIT UDAIJIN, I'M FORCED TO TELL HIM ONCE AGAIN
WHAT IS 'ABC'?
* If the emperor favors Nishinokami, she'll become a rival to the Imperial Consorts.
ALTHOUGH I KEEP ASSURING UDAIJIN THAT MY BROTHER WILL ENTER COURT ONLY AS THE CROWN PRINCESS' COMPANION,
NONETHELESS IT LOOKS LIKE HE STILL FEELS ANTIPATHY.
HE THINKS ONE THING BUT SAYS ANOTHER
No, no. No hard feelings at all
Kya Oh my. Giggle
AND THE MAIDS WATCH US AND GIGGLE
SHE CONSTANTLY PESTERS ME WITH THAT QUESTION
Please, please Kira-sama, answer me. You said you would.

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.....
SOMETIMES
HE LOOKS STRANGELY LIKE A WOMAN
sigh
IT'S REALLY TIRING
DON'T YOU AGREE, SAISHOUNO-CHUUJOU?
THE STAR OF THE NIGHT IS DEFINITELY KIRA-DONO,
Yikes!
HYOUFU KYOUNOMIYA !

THE MOON, AND EVEN THE FLOWERS ON THIS MELODIC NIGHT
ALL BUT SHY AWAY AND HIDE THEIR LIGHT.
WELL...
DON'T YOU DARE LAY YOUR EYES ON KIRA
" HOW LOATHSOME, TO THINK THAT THERE IS NO PLACE WHICH THE MOONLIGHT DISCRIMINATES AGAINST. "
IS THAT WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND?
* The moon is beautiful but how loathsome it is because its beauty shines for everyone and not just me
Wishes that there was a place where the moon won't shine
WHAT THE HECK, YOU SUMIRE (BISEXUAL) IDIOT!
AS LONG AS HIS PARTNER IS GOOD-LOOKING, HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE SEX!
KIRA'LL BE UNCOMFORTABLE
IF YOU CONTINUE TO WATCH HIM THAT WAY.
OH...
PERHAPS WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY IS..
" MAY THERE BE A PLACE WHERE MOONLIGHT CHOOSES TO DIM ITSELF. "
AM I CORRECT?

YES, LOVE IS FUNNY THAT WAY.
I UNDERSTAND IT WELL, THE DESIRE TO KEEP SOMEONE ONLY FOR YOURSELF
L-LOVE !?
...
N-NONSENSE !!
WHY WOULD I...
THE QUEER KIND OF LOVE IS LIKE THE DEEP PURPLE SUMIRE
IT GIVES ONLY AN ALLURING SCENT AT FIRST BLOOM THEN, WILTS AWAY IN SILENCE ..
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...!?
OH, IT'S JUST A POEM
HOW UNEXPECTED..
THAT YOU ARE INTO SECRET ROMANCES TOO, EH?

EH?
Badump!!
DON'T YOU FEEL THAT KIRA-NO-CHUUJOU'S EXPRESSION IS SO SAD?
AH
WHAT'S THAT?
thump
thump
thump
thump
OR PERHAPS HE'S SUFFERING FROM A SECRET LOVE AS WELL...
...!!
COURTIER'S RESTING CHAMBER

JUST RECENTLY HE ASKED ME ABOUT THE "A, B, C OF LOVE."
WHY IS IT YOU FEIGN INNOCENCE, YOU DUMBASS!?
BUT...
HE'S GOT HIS BELOVED, THE 3RD LADY.
IMPOSSIBLE!
KIRA IS LOVESICK..?
COULD IT BE THAT HE'S FOUND A NEW LOVE AND WANTED TO REVIVE 'ABC' AGAIN..!?
YOU LECHER!
HOW ENVIOUS.
YOU'RE ON TONO!* WITH KIRA-SAMA TONIGHT, AREN'T YOU?
SMILE SMILE
W-WHAT'S IT WITH ME EVERY TIME I THINK OF KIKA?
Realize

*Tono ... Night guard duty in the inner court
Young courtiers took turn doing this.

* Roll call – Attendance check for courtiers on Tonoi duty
I'LL GO LOOK FOR HIM
WHERE THE HECK IS KIKA ANYWAY?
IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR ROLL CALL*
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN GOSSIPING ABOUT ME AND SAYING THAT THAT BASTARD HYOUBU KYOUNOMIYA IS MY LOVE RIVAL
IT'S NOT FUNNY! I ONLY DATE WOMEN...!!
Miya-san often stole Chuujou's ladies
!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
OH, SAISHOUNO-CHUUJOU,

BOW
I SEE SHE'S PROBABLY ON THE WAY TO SEE THE EMPEROR AT SEIRYOUDEN MANSION
Hmph
ACK! UMETSUBO!?
FUJITSUBO MANOR...?
I RAN INTO HIM AT FUJITSUBO MANOR A WHILE AGO.
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR YOUR BOSOM COMRADE,
Yoohoo! Kira-saaan
SO I OFFERED HIM A CHEERFUL GREETING.
HE LOOKED DOWN

SUCH AN EXPRESSION...
I WONDER WHAT IT MEANS.
MAYBE IT'S WHAT THEY CALL A SECRET 'UNREQUITED LOVE'?
HO HO HO
WH-
DON'T TELL ME
THAT IDIOT KIKA!
HE WOULDN'T BE SO BLIND AS TO FALL FOR THAT HORRIBLE WOMAN, RIGHT!!?
What!?

T/N: Kanshi refers to Chinese-language poetry written in Japan by Japanese poets.

KIRA
...

IF HE WAS A WOMAN, I'D PIN HIM TO THE GROUND RIGHT THIS MINUTE...
NO... EVEN THOUGH HE ISN'T A WOMAN...!!
SAISHOUNO CHUUJOU
OH!
ERM. YOU'LL BE LATE FOR THE ROLL CALL.
SORRY. OH, YOU CAME HERE TO CALL ME.

I WAS ADMIRING THE MOON...
LADY UMETSUBO GREETED YOU, RIGHT?
...YEAH.
IT'S GOOD... TO BE HER.
GOOD !?
YOU'RE PRAISING THAT HORRIBLE UMETSUBO !!?
N- NO!
I JUST MEANT THAT IT'S GOOD TO BE A WOMAN WHO LOOKS LIKE A WOMAN
?
GOOD OR NOT.
THERE'S NO WOMAN WHO LOOKS LIKE MAN ANYWAY
I GUESS SO

A dancer who wears men's costumes from Kamakura period (1192 1333)
HEY! DON'T TELL ME YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH A SHIRA-BYOUSHI DANCER*...
NO! NO!
Today I was just
YOU KNOW YOU CAN CONFIDE ANYTHING IN ME
WE'RE BEST FRIENDS, AREN'T WE?
THANKS
YOU MUST BE DISAPPOINTED THAT MY SISTER WILL BECOME NAISHINOKAMI
YOU DEDICATED MORE THAN 200 LOVE POEMS TO HER
EH?
OH
YEAH ACTUALLY..
IT'S VERY STRANGE. I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE INFATUATED WITH LADY KIRA BUT WHEN I HEARD THAT SHE WAS TO BECOME NAISHINOKAMI...

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H-HEY, DON'T..
How much longer will you keep putting yourself in these situations!
Our Lord Kira, unwittingly yet relentlessly continues to wreck havoc in the hearts of others around her.
DON'T COME UP TO ME LIKE THIS..
Really? Are you sure theres nothing wrong with you Chuujou? Hey?

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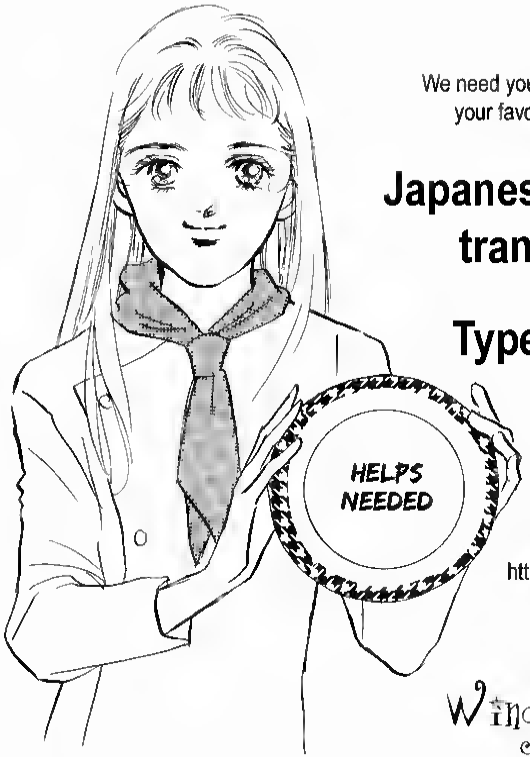

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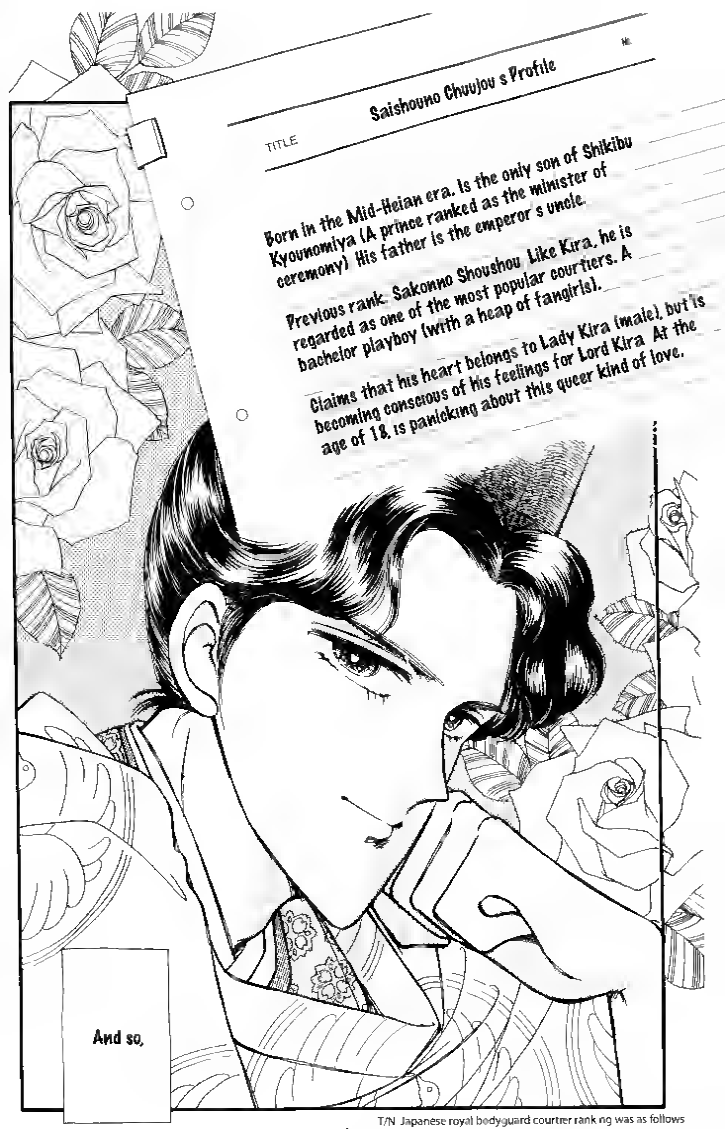
TITLE **Lord Kira's Profile**

№ DATE

Was born in the Mid-Heian era, the first daughter of Gondainagon (current position Sadaijin) Fujiwara no Akimichikyou. (A day later, a son was born, but due to special circumstances he was raised as a girl known as Lady Kira). Lord Kira was raised as a noble boy

Attended his Genpuku ceremony at the age of 14 Entered the courts as a 5th ranked courtier Around that time, had a chance encounter with the emperor at Kitasaga. Was actually mistaken by the emperor for his brother, Lady Kira.

Currently, married to Udaijin's daughter, The 3rd lady


TITLE
Saishouno Chuujou's Profile
Born in the Mid-Heian era. Is the only son of Shikibu Kyounomiya (A prince ranked as the minister of ceremony) His father is the emperor's uncle.
Previous rank: Sakonno Shoushou Like Kira, he is regarded as one of the most popular courtiers. A bachelor playboy (with a heap of fangirls).
Claims that his heart belongs to Lady Kira (male), but is becoming conscious of his feelings for Lord Kira. At the age of 18, is panicking about this queer kind of love.
And so,

T/N: Japanese royal bodyguard courtrer rank ng was as follows
Shoushou (major general) –> Chuujou (leutenant general) –> Taishou (general)
I e. Sakonno Shoushou = The major general of the left
Sanmmo Chuujou (3rd rank courtier) is a higher rank than a normal Chuujou (4th rank courtier)

His eyes were constantly drawn to Lord Kira no matter the time or place
He would quickly barge in and brake them apart
Whenever he would see Kira getting close or engaging in playful banter with other courtiers.
Oh, sorry, sorry
couldn't help but be intrigued by Lord Kira
Our Saishouno Chuujou
WHAT'S THE MATTER, CHUU-JOU?
.....
DAMMIT
HA...
HAHAHA-HA HAHA
WHACK WHACK
?
YOU MUST HAVE FALLEN FOR SOME LADY AGAIN
BADUMP
YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING STRANGELY FLUSTERED AS OF LATE
THUMP
lean in

IF THIS CONTINUES
PRINCE SHIKIBU KYOUNOMIYA'S MANOR
HOW AM I GOING TO SURVIVE THROUGH MY DAILY ROUTINES ?
I HAD HEARD OF KIRA
EVEN BEFORE HE ENTERED THE COURTS
I WAS RANKED SAKONNO SHOUSHOU BACK THEN
KIRA'S REPUTATION AS THE GONDAINAGON'S SON MADE ME REGARD HIM AS AN ARCH RIVAL
YES, HE IS SUCH A FINE BOY!

T/N * Kemari is a form of football popular during the Heian Period

he he he
HE'LL SURELY BECOME YOUR COMPETITOR ONCE HE ENTERS COURT, SHOUSHOU.
SPORT, ETIQUETTE, AND PERSONALITY, HE'S PERFECT IN ALL ASPECTS.
THEY SAY HE'S AS FAIR AS HIKARU GENJI FROM THAT NOVEL.
...
seeth
IT ASTOUNDS ME TO BE COMPARED TO A CHILD...!
BUT THAT BOY
HASN'T EVEN HAD GENPUKU YET, HAS HE?
ALL THOSE COMPARISONS THEY MADE BETWEEN US EVENTUALLY GOT TO ME
Come to think of it I didn't behave like an adult back then
THE OPPONENT PLAYED IN KIRA'S STYLE, WHILE THE TEAM I LED HONORED THE REGAL ASUKA'S STYLE WHICH HAD BEEN PASSED ON FOR MANY GENERATIONS
AND THAT INCIDENT AT THE KEMARI* TOURNAMENT
NATURALLY IT SHOOK ME UP...
I ENDED UP SNEAKING IN TO PEEK AT HIM DURING HIS GENPUKU CEREMONY
Though I could hardly see him from afar
HOW-EVER
KIRA'S FRIENDS

COURTIER KIKA
WAS NOTHING LIKE I HAD IMAGINED
HIS BUILD WAS DELICATE WILLOWY, LIKE A GIRL'S
BUT HE WAS NEITHER WEAK NOR FRAIL
INSTEAD, HE WAS ALWAYS FEISTY AND GAY
A QUICK WIT, MELODIOUS VOICE, AND A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR
THAT WAS PROBABLY WHY
I CONTINUED TO SWAMP HIS SISTER, WHO WAS RUMORED TO LOOK JUST LIKE HIM,
ENDLESSLY WITH LOVE POEMS

Trip . 1 .

ちぇんじ!を描くにあたり「アタマを平安に保つため　日常生活でも一割程平安していたはずが
お話を描く時は
どっぷり100％
平安時代にいます。
とこさか

あべ

あべ

先輩もともとのとりかへばや物語を一気読みしたとこさか すっかり平安時代にトリップしてしまいました。

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FJ
FJ
FJ
I HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OVER HIM IN TERMS OF STRENGTH AND BUILD
I DOUBT KIRA WILL RECIPRO-CATE THESE FEELINGS
SO I'LL HAVE TO WIN HIM OVER THROUGH SHEER FORCE!
SO IF I WANT TO SCORE...
SADAIJIN'S MANOR IS BUSY PREPARING FOR THE LADY'S BIG DAY THERE'RE TOO MANY PEOPLE
NOW THAT I'VE MADE UP MY MIND, I'D BETTER ACT ON IT RIGHT AWAY
Sfx: Rise
Udaijin's manor
EH?
HE'S NOT HERE?
I'M GOING TO UDAIJIN'S MANOR
PREPARE THE CART!

.....
A CAR WAS SENT FOR HIM AN URGENT MATTER CONCERNING LADY KIRA
OH... HE LEFT JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO
ALL RIGHT ?
YOU'VE COME ALL THE WAY HERE. WHY DON'T YOU WAIT FOR HIM?
OH, BUT HE SAID HE'LL BE BACK TONIGHT.
EVEN THOUGH I BRACED MYSELF AND RUSHED OVER HERE
SINK
WHAT?
HE WON'T BE BACK TONIGHT?
WELL, I DID GATHER ALL MY COURAGE FOR THIS ANYWAY
IN THAT CASE..
.....
WAIT UNTIL HE RETURNS
tug tug

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YES, THE NOTE JUST ARRIVED
IT LOOKS LIKE LADY KIRA FELL SICK AGAIN..
OH, WELL IF I HAD KNOWN, I WOULDN'T HAVE URGED YOU WAIT
DEPRESSED
WELL, IT'S VERY LATE NOW.
WILL YOU? PLEASE?
WHY DON'T YOU SPEND THE NIGHT HERE?
or Kira might say I don't welcome his friends
tug tug
IF YOU SAY SO
THEN..

Open
Rise
I CAN'T SLEEP.
TURN
.....
I WONDER WHAT
KIRA'S DOING AT THIS MOMENT...
FROM WHAT I HEARD FROM THE MAIDS HERE,
IT SEEMS THAT KIRA IS HOPELESSLY DEVOTED TO THE 3RD LADY AND DOESN'T SPARE A GLANCE FOR OTHER LADIES.
YOU KNOW, THE HANDMAIDS OF THE 3RD LADY'S WEST MANOR, THEY'RE ALL UGLY. EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM!

HAVE WE BEEN ALLOWED TO SEE HIM IN PERSON!
AND YOU KNOW WHAT? NOT EVEN ONCE
THEY WON'T ALLOW SEXY, GOOD LOOKING MAIDS SUCH AS OURSELVES TO GET NEAR KIRA-SAMA AT ALL!
... WELL,
KIRA MUST FEEL SORRY FOR HIS LOSS...
KIRA-SAMA OFTEN MAKES EXCUSES TO GO BACK TO SADAIJIN'S MANOR FOR SEVERAL DAYS A MONTH.
IT'S NOT FAIR THAT A WOMAN AS PLAIN AS THE 3RD LADY GETS TO MONOPOLIZE KIRA-SAMA ALL TO HERSELF...
HE MUST BE KEEPING A CONCUBINE THERE!!
KIRA...
HE DOES SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
NO, SIR.
EH?
BUT IF WE DON'T MAKE UP SOME WILD EXCUSE LIKE THAT,
WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL BECOME OF OUR PRIDE!?

I'D ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT KIRA HAD A FAVORITE MAID IN THE MANOR
SO HE ALWAYS RUSHED HOME EAGERLY...
BUT JUDGING FROM THE MAIDS' JEALOUS RAGING, THAT COULDN'T BE TRUE
Silly ugly thing
IT'S A TERRIBLE SHAME KIRA-SAMA CONTINUES TO DOTE ON THAT SILLY UGLY THING!
RIGHT, GIRLS!?
YEAH!!
THEY JUST CALLED THEIR MISTRESS SILLY AND UGLY
SO KIRA
REALLY LOVES THE 3RD LADY THAT MUCH...
AT THIS MOMENT,
HE COULD BE SUFFERING FROM THE THOUGHT OF HER
AND UNABLE TO SLEEP, JUST LIKE I AM.

ACCORDING TO THE MAIDS,
SHE RESIDES IN THE WEST MANOR
quick to act on his decision
tad
tad
tad
tad
THE 3RD LADY WHO HOLDS HIS HEART... I WANT TO KNOW WHAT SHE IS LIKE...!!
HOW COULD I CALL MYSELF A PLAYBOY IF I LET THIS CHANCE PASS?
FATE HAS BROUGHT US UNDER THE SAME ROOF TONIGHT.
"I'VE FARED ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO SEE YOU" AND SOLVE FROBLEM WITH THAT
IF I RUN INTO A MAID I'LL TELL HER
TADTAD
TAD
He's a pro
IF I DON'T GET TO SEE THE 3RD LADY WITH MY OWN EYES,
I WON'T BE ABLE TO LIVE IN PEACE...!!

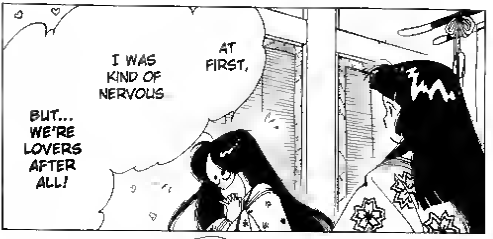
OH, THAT SHOULD BE IT.
IS THAT
shudder
snicker
THE 3RD LADY...?
YES!
THE DOOR WASN'T LOCKED EITHER

I THOUGHT I HEARD A RUSTLE.
DID MY EARS DECEIVE ME?
SIGH
TODAY KIKA-SAMA WOULDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING AGAIN
HE'S ALWAYS IGNORES ME WHEN I ASK ABOUT 'ABC'.
BUT FROM WHAT MINO SAID...
I THINK 'ABC' MUST BE SOMETHING WONDERFUL
HIME-SAMA!
I FINALLY DID THE 'C'...!

Trip. 2

どーゆう状態かというと 魂が身体を離れて 浮いちゃってカンジなんですね。

現実への集中力はなくなるし 平安時代の事を見たり聞いたりするだけで 心臓がドキドキしてしまう。このまま戻れなかったらどうしよっ
とも 思いましたが幸い3日ほどで 直りました。
わたしって 順応しやすい性格だったのね。



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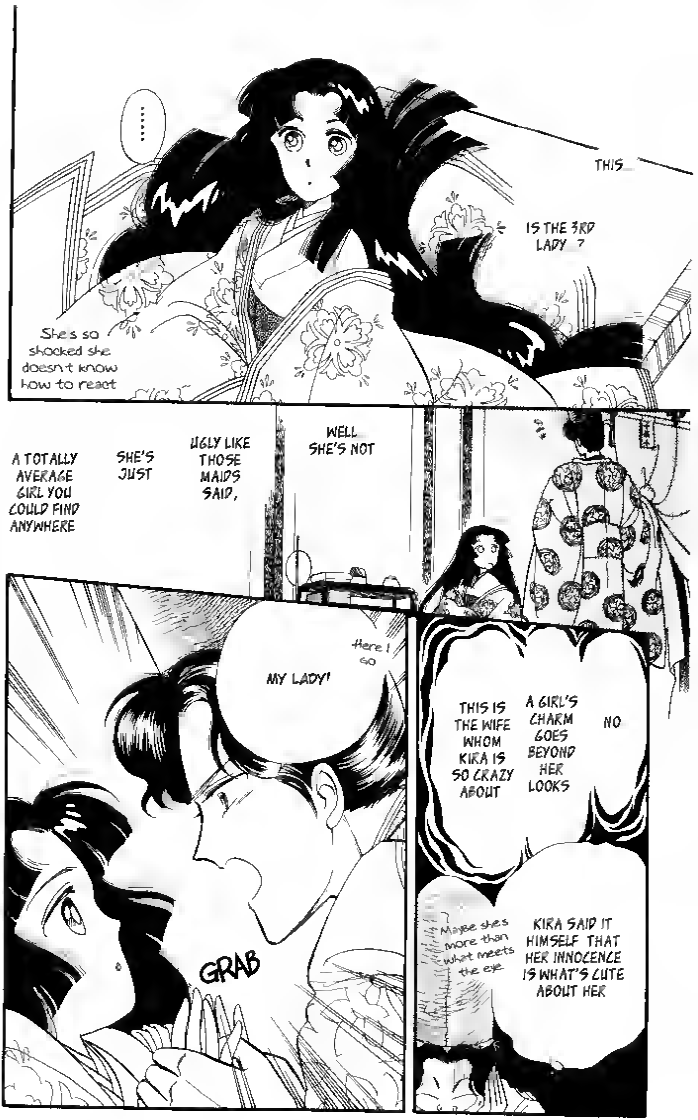
EVERY TIME OUR EYES MET...
KIRA-SAMA WOULD LOOK UNCOMFORTABLE
LATELY
BUT IS IT SO WRONG TO ASK?
THE MAIDS SAID, "IT'S BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT YOU TO ASK ABOUT 'ABC'"
I AM...
TRYING.
IS THAT BECAUSE I AM STILL A CHILD?
YOU KNOW, NO MATTER HOW MUCH KIRA-SAMA SHOWS THAT HE LOVES YOU, DON'T YOU GET CARELESS YOU MUST LATCH ONTO HIM AND NEVER LET GO!
STOP ACTING LIKE A CHILD.
HE'LL GET TIRED OF YOU.
YOU MUST DO YOUR BEST TO KEEP HIM WITH YOU FOREVER, UNDERSTAND!?
...

.....
JUST BECAUSE I'M STILL A CHILD...
I'M MARRIED AND HAVE A HUSBAND
BUT...
I SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK
I'M ALREADY AN ADULT
I WISH KIRA-SAMA WOULD COME BACK SOON
ALL RIGHT! WHEN KIRA-SAMA COMES BACK HOME THIS TIME
I'LL DEFINITELY GET THE ANSWER OUT OF HIM!!
SO...

THE WOMAN KIRA IS HEAD OVER HEELS IN LOVE WITH MUST BE A RAVING BEAUTY !
I'M HERE TO SEE HER WITH MY OWN EYES
.....
JUST THIS ONCE
INDEED, SHE REALLY IS THE 3RD LADY
A SEXY MADAM.
gulp
.....
WHO'S THAT?
MINO?
rustle
open
RUSTLE

Eh!?


.....
She's so shocked she doesn't know how to react
THIS
IS THE 3RD LADY ?
A TOTALLY AVERAGE GIRL YOU COULD FIND ANYWHERE
SHE'S JUST
UGLY LIKE THOSE MAIDS SAID,
WELL SHE'S NOT
NO
A GIRL'S CHARM GOES BEYOND HER LOOKS
THIS IS THE WIFE WHOM KIRA IS SO CRAZY ABOUT
Here I go
MY LADY!
GRAB
Maybe she's more than what meets the eye
KIRA SAID IT HIMSELF THAT HER INNOCENCE IS WHAT'S CUTE ABOUT HER

I'VE BEEN HOPELESSLY IN LOVE WITH YOU FOR A LONG TIME
I KNOW YOU ARE THE DAUGHTER OF THE RENOWNED AND POWERFUL UDAIJIN
AND THE WIFE OF THE EMPEROR'S FAVORITE, LORD KIRA HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH I UNDERSTAND ALL THIS I STILL CANNOT GET YOU OUT OF MY MIND...
AND I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF FROM SNEAKING IN HERE TO JUST TO SEE YOU.
PLEASE! TAKE PITY ON THE MAN WHO RISKED HIS LIFE TO GET A GLIMPSE OF YOU!
he's completely into it!
DON'T PUSH ME AWAY ANYMORE ...!
SHE'S NOT RESISTING AT ALL?
SHE
.....
NORMALLY THERE'D AT LEAST BE SOME FEIGNED DISAGREE-MENT,
JUST ENOUGH TO MAKE THE MAN WANT TO SUBDUE HER
Could she already be used to adultery?
Sfx Embrace

W-WHATEVER I DON'T HAVE THE TIME
WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES, IT'S YOUR FACE I SEE.
MY THOUGHTS ARE FILLED WITH YOU ALONE.
THIS FEELING IS REAL,
AND THE FACT THAT I'M HERE NOW IS PROOF...
Wide eyed
HOW AWKWARD! I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START!
BUT
EVEN MY DEEPEST KISS
DOESN'T DRAW OUT ANY REACTION, BE IT DISDAIN OR ENCHANTMENT.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS GIRL?
SAG
EH!?
But he continues anyway.

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HIME-SAMA, ARE YOU UP YET?
THAT WAS CLOSE I OVERSLEPT AT MY LOVER'S PLACE
CLATTER
chirp chirp
OHH, HE'S EVERY BIT AS HANDSOME AS THEY SAY!
I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF HIM
SAISHOUNO-CHUU JOU-SAMA LEFT JUST A WHILE AGO
HIME-SAMA
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
...
EH?
spaced out

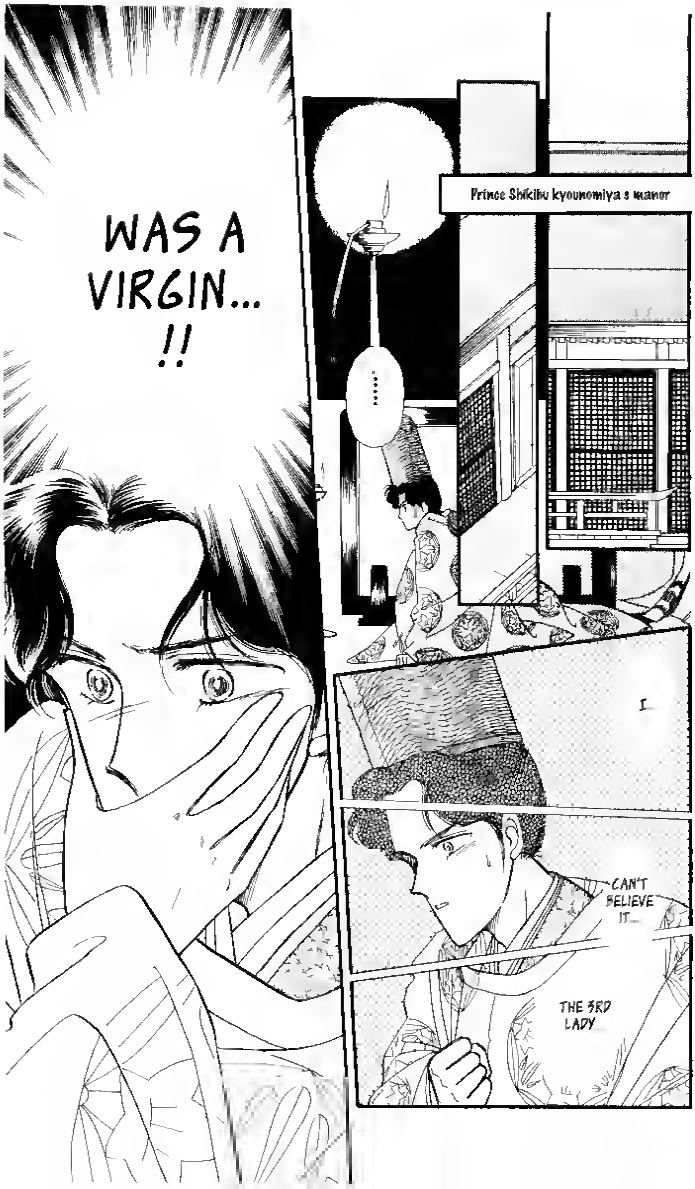
?
N...NO
IT'S NOTHING
HUH?
MINO
FINALLY
FINALLY
I UNDERSTAND WHAT 'ABC' IS ALL ABOUT!
...
POP
'C'
FOLLOWED BY
THEN THERE WAS 'B', FOLLOWED BY
FIRST THAT WAS 'A'
HE WAS SO STRONG AND WONDERFUL AND HE SAID HE'S BEEN IN LOVE WITH ME FOR A LONG TIME
BUT
SAISHOUNO-CHUUJOU-SAMA
IT HURT A LOT
BUT

OH, 'ABC' AGAIN?
FROM WHAT I HEARD, 'ABC' IS SOMETHING THAT HUSBANDS AND WIVES USUALLY DO...
THEN WHY DOESN'T KIRA-SAMA...?
Let's see
SAY IF THEY DON'T LOVE EACH OTHER
OR ONE OF THEM HATES THE OTHER
OR GETS TIRED OF THE OTHER..
YEAH, THERE ARE NO SPOUSES THAT DON'T DO 'ABC'.
OH, BUT MAYBE SOME DON'T?
Sfx gasp
ADULTERY?
FOR EXAMPLE, THEY MAY HATE EACH OTHER BECAUSE ONE OF THEM COMMITTED ADULTERY.
MEANING DOING 'ABC' WITH SOMEONE WHO YOU DIDN'T EAT 'MIKAYO NO MOCHI' WITH
KIRA-SAMA IS ALWAYS VERY AGREEABLE AND-
MINO!
FINE, FINE
HATE...?
BUT, WHY...!?
AWW
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT CONCERNS HIME-SAMA.

Mikayo no mochi = a sweet eaten by couples after their third night of marriage as a sign that consummation is complete

I DID THOSE THINGS WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN KIRA-SAMA
COMMITTED ADULTERY!?
So many things to do today
.....
COULD IT BE...
THAT I HAVE...
BECAUSE I COMMITTED ADULTERY, I'VE BECOME A BAD WOMAN THAT'S WHY
shock and ignorance does wonders to your reasoning
SO, THAT'S WHY... WHEN I ASKED HIM ABOUT IT, HE GOT MAD
KIRA-SAMA HATES ME AND WON'T DO ABC WITH ME
tremble
tremble
tremble
KIRA-SAMA

OH!
GOOD-
NESS.
HATES ME
OH DEAR. IT SEEMS YOUR CYCLE HAS BECOME IRREGULAR
YOU'VE GOTTEN YOUR PERIOD BLOOD ON THE FUTON.
OHH
YOU SEE NOW? I TOLD YOU TO EAT MORE VEGETABLES.
tad tad tad
SAISHOUNO-CHUUJOU-SAMA !!


WAS A VIRGIN...!!
Prince Shikibu kyounomiya s manor
.....
I...
CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
THE 3RD LADY

COULD IT BE THAT HE ACTUALLY SWINGS THAT WAY?
NO INTEREST IN WOMEN, WITH EYES ONLY FOR MEN...?
POP
HOW IN THE WORLD IS IT, THAT THE 3RD LADY HAS BEEN LEFT UNTOUCHED!!?
WITH EVERYONE IN TOWN TALKING ABOUT HOW LOVEY DOVEY KIRA AND THE 3RD LADY WERE,
THE EMPEROR CONSTANTLY MOCKING KIRA ABOUT HOW AFFECTIONATE THEY WERE TOWARDS EACH OTHER,
AND UDAIJIN'S MAIDS' GREEN EYED JEALOUSY...
.....
Bi-sexual Hyaibu kyaunmiya!
OR HYOUBU KYOUNOMIYA WOULD HAVE CAUGHT HIM A LONG TIME AGO.
N-NO WAY
DURING OUR LITTLE CHIT-CHAT AT THE IMPERIAL CONSORT REIKEDEN'S MANOR
COME TO THINK OF IT,
Ah!
THIS MAKES NO SENSE!!!
Argh!!

WHAT KIKA SAID
THAT WAS
SHE'S CUTE BECAUSE SHE IS AS INNOCENT AS A CHILD
MAYBE HE FEELS THAT THE 3RD LADY IS TOO INNOCENT AND WANTS TO WAIT UNTIL SHE'S OLDER!?
HE WOULD WAIT UNTIL SHE'S AN ADULT...
THAT'S TOTALLY POSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE AS KIND AS KIKA
BUT...
OUT OF THE GOODNESS OF HIS HEART BEFORE HE...
I DEFLOWERED THE LADY KIKA WHOM HE HAS CHERISHED AND CARED FOR WITH ALL HIS HEART
Sfx lightening struck!!
SHUNK

pang gloom pale
IF IT'S TOO MUCH OF A SHOCK, HE MIGHT GET SO DEPRESSED, HE GOES INTO MONASTICISM!
Should I sneak into your sister's room?
IF... IF HE KNOWS CRAP! HE GOT ALL RILED UP
I'll cut all ties with you!
WHEN I TEASED HIM ABOUT HIS SISTER
KIRA SANMINO-CHUUJOU TO SEE YOU, MY LORD
THAT WOULD BE A DISASTER! THERE ARE LOTS OF GAYS AMONG JAPANESE MONKS!
I CANNOT ALLOW KIRA TO FALL INTO THE WOLVES' DEN!!
Sfx: Bang
Sfx: Jump
frantic panicked
SWISH
ERM... FORGET IT!
LAY THE FUTON!!
N-NO! I CAN'T FACE HIM RIGHT NOW!!
YOU'RE SICK?
I'M SICK!!
TELL HIM I'M VERY, VERY SICK! LET THE CURTAIN DOWN, QUICK.. !!
AH...
TELL HIM I'M NOT HOME!

HOW ARE YOU FEELING, CHUUJOU?
.....
I... I'VE GOT A STOMACH ACHE... NOTHING SERIOUS.
O-Oh
STOMACH ACHE? DON'T TELL ME THE FOOD AT UDAIJIN'S...
NO! MY HEALTH JUST HASN'T BEEN GOOD LATELY!!
GASP
.....
ABOUT LAST NIGHT.
YOU WENT ALL THE WAY THERE TO SEE ME. BUT I WASN'T HOME.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING SERIOUS, RIGHT?
Ok. Erm.

BUT LAST NIGHT, I THINK, WAS A NEW MOON...
NOTHING IMPORTANT...
I JUST WANTED TO HAVE A NICE CHAT WITH YOU UNDER THE FULL MOON.
I'M SO DISGUSTED WITH MYSELF.
SOMEBODY!
SOMEBODY HELP!! COME QUICK!
CHUUJOU-SAMA IS FEELING VERY SICK!!
What can I say next? er...erm
A-AH...
YES... I GUESS SO!
IT HURTS
OUCH
UGH...
MY STOMACH...
CHUUJOU!?
I'M...
Kyaa! What's the matter, Chuujou-sama? My lord! Young master!
Ack

WHO WOULD BE SERIOUS WITH THAT DOLL OF A GIRL! I DID IT WITH HER BECAUSE SHE'S KIRA'S WIFE...
WHY DO I HAVE TO AVOID THE PERSON I LOVE!!?
WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW HE MIGHT KNOW ABOUT THE 3RD LADY AND I, I FEEL SO GUILTY I CAN'T FACE HIM PROPERLY...
WILL I HAVE TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE AVOIDING KIRA?
Sfx Virgin
Not again
HE SAID HE'S GOT A STOMACH ACHE BUT HE KEEPS CLUTCHING HIS TEMPLES
Im very concerned
Get the doctor!
Exorcists, shamans, priests!
HIS PARENTS GOT HYSTERICAL. BUT HE'S AN ONLY CHILD AFTER ALL...
AFTER THAT HE WAS SMOTHERED BY THE MAIDS.
Mum
Dad
fret fret fret
IS HE ALRIGHT?
CHUUJOU

THE 3RD LADY WILL ASK ME ABOUT 'ABC' AGAIN
sigh
Mmm
I STAYED OVER AT HOME LAST NIGHT BECAUSE I HAD TO TRAIN MY BROTHER FOR NAISHINOKAMI CEREMONY AND ALSO BECAUSE
IF I STAY AT UDAIJIN'S HOUSE TOO LONG
WHERE TO, KIRA-SAMA?
AH. UDAIJIN'S MANOR.
UDAIJIN'S MANOR
I WON'T SEE HIM!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE KIRA-SAMA EVER AGAIN!
NO!
HIME WON'T?
SHE...
YES
EH?
SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE ME?

WingtipCafe.com

I HATE KIRA-SAMA THE MOST!
.....
WAHH
Hime-sama!
HE HATES ME!
KIRA-SAMA'S HATED ME FROM THE START !!
BUT HIME-SAMA, HE SQUEEZED TIME OUT OF HIS TIGHT SCHEDULE TO COME HERE
YOU SHOULD GO SEE HIM
WAFFY
NO! NO!
IT COULDN'T BE
THAT SHE'S FOUND OUT I'M A WOMAN...!?
SHE'S BEEN LIKE THAT SINCE MORNING
I HEARD IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE HER MONTHLY CYCLE GOT MESSED UP THIS MONTH.
SO SHE IS IN A BAD MOOD.
SIGH
I SEE.
I'M SO SORRY YOU HAD TO WITNESS THIS
SO PLEASE DON'T TAKE OFFENSE, EVEN THOUGH SHE SAID SHE HATED YOU!
NOT AT ALL.
I JUST WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR NOT RETURNING HOME LAST NIGHT.

Though she feels awkward
HER PERIOD MONTHLY CYCLE.. IS OFF
SO SHE'S BECOME MOODY?
MENSTRUAL CYCLES...
Since she is behaving like that I have no reason to hold you here. I'm grateful for your generosity.
But right now, you may return home and take care of Lady Kira's business
BUT THAT'S GOOD. NOW I HAVE AN EXCUSE TO GO HOME MORE OFTEN.
I CAN RELATE TO THAT. SUCH A SMALL THING CAN DRIVE YOU CRAZY.
laugh
many more dark clouds loom ahead of him
It seems that
So while our Lord Kira was happy.
Tee hee
BUT AT LEAST I CAN RELAX A LITTLE MORE AT HOME
IT GIVES ME A HEADACHE TO THINK OF MY BROTHER'S PROBLEMS

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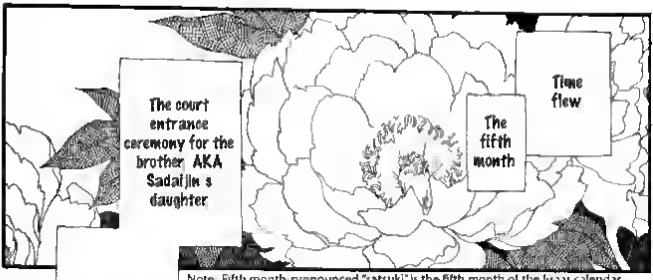
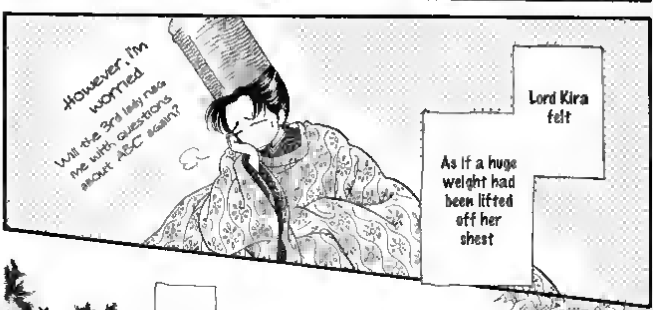
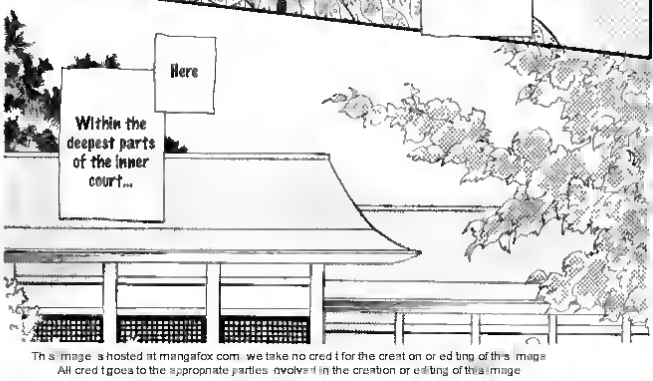


Note: Fifth month, pronounced "satsuki" is the fifth month of the lunar calendar


However, I'm worried
Will the 3rd lady rain me with questions about AEC again?
Lord Kira felt
As if a huge weight had been lifted off her chest



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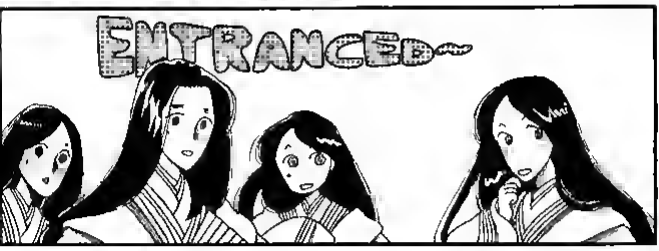

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I KNEW IT.
HE MUST BE VERY WORRIED ABOUT HIS SISTER, NAISHINOKAMI.
HE ALWAYS RUSHES TO HER MANOR.
AND HE COMES EVERYDAY TOO, YOU KNOW.
RIGHT AFTER THE DAILY ATTENDANCE WITH HIS MAJESTY.
It's such a pleasant sight for us!♡
Kyaa Ho Ho Ho
YOU'RE RIGHT.
ON THE OTHER HAND, SAISHOUNO-CHUUJOU-SAMA HAS BEEN ABSENT FOR QUITE A WHILE.
THAT'S TRUE.
Did something terrible happen?
Really worried
Senyouden Manor
LADY NAISHINOKAMI.

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*T/N: A high-ranking lady-in-waiting

SHE'S BEEN ON RAMPAGE IT'S BEYOND OUR HANDS.
THE CROWN PRINCESS IS THROWING A FIT AGAIN.
COULD YOU PLEASE REQUEST THAT YOUR LADYSHIP MAKE HASTE?
SHE'LL BE HAVING BREAKFAST SOON.
NAISHINOKAMI-SAMA HAS FINISHED HER MORNING RITUALS.

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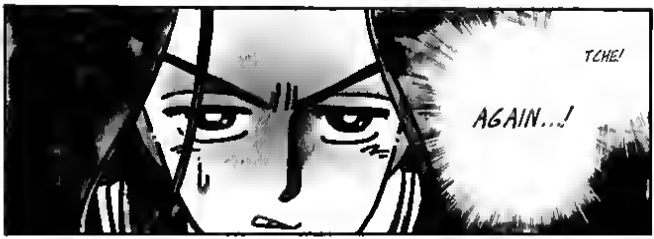

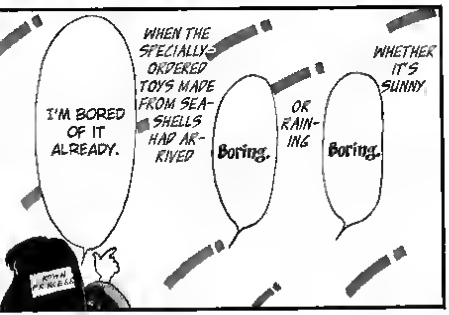

OH...
I'M ALL DONE. LET'S GO, SAYURI.
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S THE CROWN PRINCESS, SHE CAN'T...
IF SOMEONE DARES TO OPPOSE HER, SHE THREATENS TO TAKE MATTERS TO THE EMPEROR.

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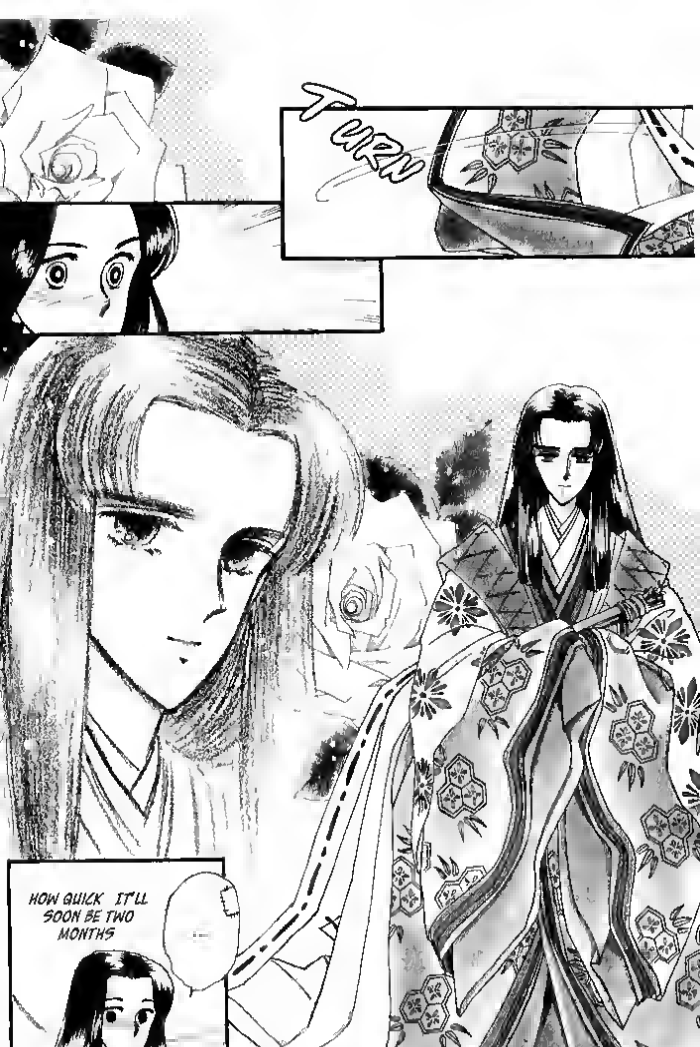

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I STILL CAN'T GET USED TO THE FACT THAT...
BUT, NAISHINOKAMI SEEMS TO HAVE ADJUSTED TO COURT LIFE
THIS BEAUTIFUL NAISHINOKAMI
IS IN FACT A MAN!
MURMUR
MURMUR
KYAA
REALLY?!
LET ME SEE! LET ME SEE~~!!
SHE'LL REACH THE BAMBOO CURTAINS ANY MINUTE NOW.
KIRA NAISHINOKAMI-SAN IS HEADING OFF TO NASHITSUBO, THE CROWN PRINCESS'S MANSION!
LOOK! OVER THERE!
OVER HERE.

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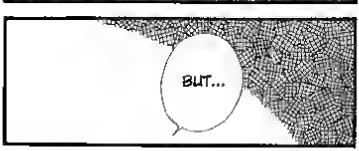
AH... SHE IS...
AS REFINED AS ALWAYS...
INDEED
LOOK HOW GRACEFUL HER MOVEMENTS ARE
SHE'S ALL ELEGANCE, FROM HER HAIR DOWN TO HER KIMONO'S TRAIL. AND...
NO MATTER WHICH ANGLE YOU SEE HER FROM,
SHE'S THE SPITTING IMAGE OF LORD KIRA...!!



To tell you the truth...
Naishinokami only recently gained popularity
During her first days in the palace, she was subject to fierce hostility from Imperial consort maids

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It was a short while after Naishinokami entered court
OH, YES.
AND DO YOU RECALL
THAT INCIDENT?
SHE FOREVER CONFINES HERSELF TO THAT ROOM, WE HARDLY FEEL HER PRESENCE
APART FROM ATTENDING TO THE CROWN PRINCESS AT NASHITSUBO MANSION,
BECAUSE OF KIRA-CHUUJOU'S DAILY VISITS
WE ONLY STILL KNOW SHE'S THERE
She's that quiet
BUT I REALLY WANT TO SEE THE REACTION OF THE IMPOSSIBLY SHY NAISHINOKAMI WHEN I BARGE IN UNANNOUNCED
Fu fu
snicker snicker
UNLESS KIRA WAS PRESENT
I PROMISED THAT I WOULDN'T PAY NAISHINOKAMI A VISIT
HELLO!
THRUST

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Editor's note: The sign above says "Crown rincess"

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I HAD NO IDEA THAT
SHE WAS SO SHY WITH STRANGERS
AGAIN ..
HAP-PEN. ..
IT WON'T ..
.. I SEE...
YES, SHE'S THAT SHY
JUST A VISIT TO NASHITSUBO MANSION IS QUITE A PROCESSION.
WELL SURE SHE ALWAYS HAS 40 MAIDS TAGGING ALONG WITH HER.
NAISHI-NOKAMI-SAMA
OUR PASSAGE THROUGH REIKEIDEN TODAY IS PEACEFUL AS ALWAYS
Whisper
NO MATTER HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE IS
THAT'S WHY
SHE COULD NEVER BE OUR LADY'S RIVAL!!
BEAM

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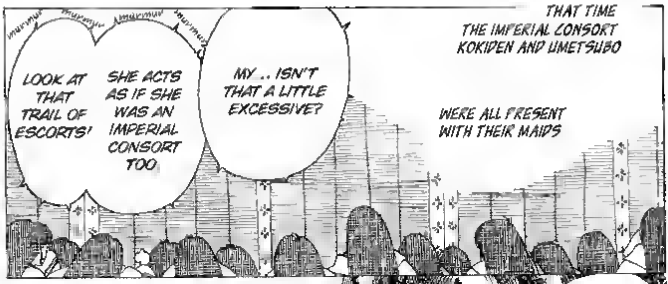
THAT TIME THE IMPERIAL CONSORT KOKIDEN AND UMETSUBO
WERE ALL PRESENT WITH THEIR MAIDS
MY .. ISN'T THAT A LITTLE EXCESSIVE?
LOOK AT THAT TRAIL OF ESCORTS!
SHE ACTS AS IF SHE WAS AN IMPERIAL CONSORT TOO.

You listening?
Human relations is the key to surviving court life!!
W-WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S AS IF.. THEY INTENTIONALLY WANT ME TO HEAR ALL THIS.
I DIDN'T.. I DIDN'T COME HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO..!
TREMBLE TREMBLE
...
OH, LOOK, LOOK! LOOK HOW SHE HIDES HER FACE BEHIND THE FAN.
AND HER COMPLEXION? THAT'S NOT PALE, THAT'S PASTY.
SHE MUST THINK SHE'S SOOOO PRETTY.
HOW SICKENING!

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Arm yourself with friendly smiles.
Carefully choose your words.
You need to make sure that everyone has a good impression of you, got it?!
Since you'll be holding the position of Naishinokami,
Book: How to survive court life
...
You make it sound so easy
And that's it!!
GRAB
SAYURI...
CHEER-FULLY GREET THEM...?
B-BUT...
WITH THOSE FRIGHTENING GLARES LOOKING ONTO ME
HOW CAN I...

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NEE-SAMA...!
IF YOU FALTER NOW,
ALL OF KIRA-SAMA'S HARD WORK WILL BE IN VAIN!
NAISHI-NOKAMI -SAMA!
HOW CAN I CALL... MYSELF A MAN!!
IF I DON'T STAND UP FOR MYSELF HERE...
HOW CAN I...
THAT'S RIGHT...
HER HANDS WERE ALREADY FULL OF PROBLEMS BEFORE THAT
BUT SINCE I HAD TO ENTER THE COURT,
SHE'S BEEN RUNNING AROUND EXHAUSTING HERSELF TO SMOOTH OVER EVERY LITTLE THING.

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AFTER I TRIED IT ONCE, IT WASN'T SO HARD ANYMORE
BUT IT WAS REALLY SCARY THAT DAY
Smile
SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN CUSTOMARILY GREETING THEM TO PROTECT MYSELF
But I can't become careless
Dazed
Instantly charmed
Nashitsubo Mansion (Shouyosha)
...

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That revolting Narezushi
THE SANMI** KEEP TELLING ME IT'S GOOD FOR MY BODY AND ALWAS SERVE IT TO ME.
I... HATE NAREZUSHI THE MOST.
**T/N Sanmi refers to high ranking maids
*T/N Narezushi is old style fermented sushi It's made by fermenting fish and rice together for almost a year
...
THERE WAS NAREZUSHI* IN MY BREAKFAST.
YOU KNOW...
EH?
DON'T BOTHER LOOKING.
NAREZUSHI ..?
BUT I DIDN'T SEE ANY ON THE FLOOR ONLY A STICKY MESS OF AMAZURA***
...
I KIND OF .. LIKE AMAZURA .. A LITTLE.. WELL... A LOT, BUT..
ACTUALLY..
Ehuehh
GROW
IT WAS SO DISGUSTING THAT I THREW IT OUT IN THE GARDEN.
That's right!
***Amazura is the extracted syrup from boiling the sap of grape ivy down. It was regarded as a staple but rare and valuable sweet in the Emperor's palace and old temples.

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I SEE. AMAZURA IS A RARE DELICACY.
NOT SOMETHING THAT ANYONE CAN HAVE SO EASILY.
RIGHT?
BUT BECAUSE IT'S ME, IT'S EASY TO GET.
I'M THE CROWN PRINCESS.
I'M NOT GOING TO EAT ANYTHING I DON'T LIKE!
SAYURI, PLEASE INFORM ICHIJOU IMMEDIATELY.
THE CROWN PRINCESS HAS NO NEED FOR HER MEAL ANYMORE.
UNDERSTOOD
GASP
Who said I'm not eating?!!
THEN...
MY LADY WILL HAVE HER BREAKFAST?
I'VE BEEN HAD...!!
I'll prepare the new set immediately
Ichiyou
SULK

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I'LL CHASE HER OUT OF HERE BEFORE SHE EVEN TAKES A SECOND BREATH.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S MY BROTHER'S ROYAL COMMAND.
THE NEW NAISHINOKAMI MUST BE A PRUDISH OLD MAID.
STUFF STUFF
Stuffing seams in silk bag
COME TO THINK OF IT, THINGS HAVE GONE DOWNHILL SINCE THAT DAY.
HMPH! WHAT KIND OF NAISHI-NOKAMI IS SHE?
SHE'S NEVER LOOKED OFFENDED OR SCOLDED ME.
ALL SHE DOES IS QUIETLY WATCH WHEN I THROW A FIT
HERE SHE COMES!
CROWN PRINCESS, THE NEW NAISHINOKAMI HAS ARRIVED...
Take this!!
STAGGER
NAISHINO-KAMI, HANG IN THERE PLEASE!
LADY NAISHI-NOKAMI!!
NAISHI-NOKAMI !
THUD
Ah!

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SO UNLIKE OTHERS, SHE KEEPS A COOL DEMEANOUR
SHE PROBABLY KNOWS I'LL END UP SAYING SORRY TO HER
AFTER THAT, I'VE ALWAYS COME TO APOLOGISE TO NAISHINOKAMI
I'M SORRY, NAISHINO-KAMI...!
NAISHI-NOKAMI
IT...
IT WAS JUST A BAG OF BEANS.
NO WAY!!
AND I DIDN'T EVEN THROW IT THAT HARD
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO PERFORM YOUR DUTIES IN COURT?
PAINTING AFTER GETTING HIT BY A BALL.
NAISHINOKAMI, ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT SICK?
LIKE THAT TIME AFTER-WARDS
IF YOUR HIGHNESS WOULD KINDLY ASK HIS MAJESTY TO REMOVE ME...
NO!!
I SHOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE
IT'S AS YOU SAY. .

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I WON'T ALLOW NAISHINOKAMI TO LEAVE THE PALACE!
NO!
An obstinate child
Oh,
...
I
HAVE NO DESIRE TO BE CROWN PRINCESS
...
BUT FOR SOMEONE LIKE NAISHINOKAMI,
IF I DIDN'T STOP HER, SHE WOULD HAVE SURELY RESIGNED FROM COURT
AH
NOW THAT WAS QUITE EMBARASSING
WHAT THE HECK AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!!
WHEN THEY OBVIOUSLY "NEVER WANT A FEMALE TO SUCCEED THE THRONE"
WITH PEOPLE ALWAYS TELLING ME, "BEHAVE LIKE A CROWN PRINCESS SHOULD"
AND I'M STUCK IN HERE
BUT,
I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE

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BESIDES
YES, THAT MUST BE THE REASON!
IT MUST BE BECAUSE SHE RESEMBLES KIKA NO CHUUJOU, WHOM I SILENTLY ADMIRE
MY HEART GOES CRAZY WHEN NAISHINOKAMI LOOKS AT ME
Doesn't know what to do
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO TRUST HER
I THINK SHE WOULD UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL
BUT
NAISHINOKAMI IS DIFFERENT
SHE DOESN'T GO OUT OF HER WAY TO FLATTER ME MEANINGLESSLY LIKE OTHERS DO
AND EVEN WHEN I SULKED AROUND,
SHE DOESN'T FROWN AT ME, JUST LIKE BEFORE
SOMEHOW
SHE'S ADORABLE

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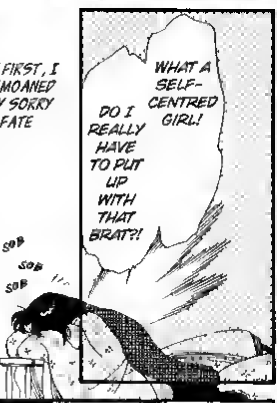
Assistant.

いつも同じ顔ぶれですが　組み合わせが違ったりして　アシに入るのは2～3人。めたしを入れて3～4人の仕事場です。それ以上人数がふえちゃうと　めたしはパニックをおこして指定が出せなくなるからです。（部屋もせまいし）みんな明るい人たちばかりです。いつもありがと。

IN FACT, SHE'S ABSOLUTELY ADORABLE
THOUGH SHE OFTEN GOES INTO HYSTERICS LIKE MOTHER DOES, SHE CERTAINLY DOESN'T LOOK AS CREEPY.



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WHY? IS HAVING A MEAL WITH ME THAT REPULSIVE?!
THANK YOU, HOW-EVER...
NAI-SHINO-KAMI
WILL YOU JOIN ME?
YOUR HIGH-NESS,
A NEW SET OF YOUR MEAL HAS ARRIVED
ALL RIGHT I KNOW NAISHINOKAMI IS VERY SHY.
NOT AT ALL.
BUT... IN FRONT OF THIS AUDIENCE...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHEN MY SECRET WILL BE EXPOSED
IT WENT WELL, AS USUAL.
I DON'T WANT TO INVOLVE ANYONE ELSE IN THIS
BUT YOU'LL PLAY GO WITH ME AFTERWARDS ?
CERTAIN-LY.

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NAISHI-NOKAMI
HOW ARE YOU DOING!
I ALWAYS KNOW BEFORE-HAND WHEN YOU COME TO SEE ME.
HUH?
BECAUSE THE COURT LADIES SCREAM AND ELBOW EACH OTHER JUST TO GET A GLIMPSE OF YOU
THEIR SQUEALING CARRIES ALL THE WAY OVER HERE.
OH, BUT TODAY WAS DIFFERENT.
A YOUNG LADY FELL OUT OF THE CURTAIN IN THE HALLWAY AROUND THE IMPERIAL CONSORT'S MANOR.
I KNOW, RIGHT?
trying not to laugh
SHE MUST. BE MORTIFIED.
Pfft

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THIS ONE FLIMSY CURTAIN CANNOT CONCEAL YOUR BEAUTY EITHER
JUST LIKE THE PRINCESS SOOTORI*
WHOSE BEAUTY COULD NOT BE CONCEALED BENEATH LAYERS OF CLOTHING.
SHE TURNED BRIGHT RED I FELT SORRY FOR HER SO I...
...
AND SO I RUSHED MY WAY OVER HERE.
THE OTHER LADIES BEHIND THE CURTAIN LET OUT A SQUEAL
WITH THAT, SHE PROMPTLY FAINTED
I... I GUESS SO...
IF YOU DON'T LEARN HOW TO TALK LIKE THAT, YOU'LL HAVE A HARD TIME WHEN YOU GO BACK TO BEING A MAN.
THIS IS JUST A SOCIAL TACTIC, SILLY.
YOU REALLY ARE A PLAYBOY...
I ONLY BELIEVE IT NOW...
WELL... I HEARD THAT YOU WERE EXTREMELY POPULAR...
Seriously worried

*T/N Sootori-hime the princess whose beauty shines through her clothing. She is typically depicted dressed as a court lady holding a fan while looking up at a spider

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LATELY,
I'VE BEEN THINKING,
HIS MAJESTY HAS BEEN AT ODDS WITH ME EVER SINCE MY MARRIAGE.
THERE ARE ALSO MORE THINGS I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT NOW, TOO.
ALL THESE PROBLEMS...
AREN'T THEY ALL FROM MY DRESSING AS A MAN?
AT THE RECENT MUSIC SOIREE,
I HAPPENED TO SPOT IMPERIAL CONSORT UMETSUBO'S DAZZLING DRESSED TROUPE.
I COULDN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT IT ACTUALLY WOULDN'T BE SO BAD IF I DRESSED LIKE THAT..
THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT...
SOMETIMES, I JUST WANT TO
SWITCH PLACES WITH YOU.

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BUT MINE JUST CAN'T INSTANTLY GROW SO LONG OVERNIGHT.
YOU CAN DO IT WITH JUST A SNIP OF THE HAIR.
OH.
IMPOS-SIBLE.
WHAT A FANTASTIC IDEA, NEE-SAMA.
IT'S JUST SO SIMPLE THAT WE'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF IT BUT..
THAT'S RIGHT!
Of course
T-TRUE.
THINGS MUST BE GOING WELL WITH THE CROWN PRINCESS TOO?
EH?
THAT I HEAR NO MORE OF MOTHER'S CULT CHANT-INGS.
ONE AD-VANTAGE OF COURT LIFE IS...
IT DID WON-DERS FOR MY HEALTH. I CAN FEEL MY STRENGTH IM-PROVING LITTLE BY LITTLE.
Though, I still don't have a lot of muscles yet
THOUGH... I THOUGHT IT WAS MY CHANCE TO BE RELEASED FROM THESE HORRIBLY STUFFY LAYERS OF JUUNIHITOE*.

*An extremely elegant and highly complex kimono that was only worn by court-ladies in Japan. Literally translated it means "twelve-layer robe"

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WHAT DO YOU MEAN... TRICK?
I want to know!!!
WHAT KIND OF TRICK DID YOU USE?
NAISHINOKAMI'S METHOD OF "TAMING A TOMBOYISH BRAT" IS BECOMING QUITE THE TALK, YOU KNOW?
WHAT! WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT!!
BUSH
DON'T YOU DO ANYTHING STUPID JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE AWAKENED TO YOUR MASCULINITY.
IT'S PROBABLY JUST BECAUSE I'VE GOTTEN USED TO MY TOMBOYISH SISTER
HEY! WATCH IT!!
Understands exactly the underlying meaning
Doesn't quite understand her own words
LADY NAISHINOKAMI.
EH!!
HIS MAJESTY HAS ARRIVED.

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AREN'T WE HAVING FUN HERE?
YOUR LAUGHTER CAN BE HEARD ALL THE WAY UP TO REIKEIDEN MANSION.
THE EMPEROR
SINCE KIRA IS ALSO HERE, I AM NOT AT FAULT FOR VISITING.
AM I, NAISHINO-KAMI?
NO... NO, YOUR MAJESTY
GRIN GRIN
AS I THOUGHT
IT WAS A BRILLIANT IDEA TO BRING THE SISTER INTO THE PALACE!

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HERE AND UDAIJIN'S HOUSE WHERE THE 3RD LADY IS AS FREQUENTLY ANYMORE.
SO HE ISN'T ABLE TO COMMUTE BETWEEN
NOW KIRA COMES HERE TO CHECK UP ON NAISHINOKAMI EVERY DAY
JUMP
HAVE YOU GOTTEN USED TO LIFE HERE?
IT'S BEEN TWO MONTHS SINCE YOU'VE ENTERED THE PALACE.
very pleased
IT WAS TRULY A BRILLIANT MOVE INDEED.
Manual to Survive the Inner Palace
If asked this, then answer like this.
by Kira-chuujou
YOUR MAJESTY, EVERYONE HAS BEEN TRULY KIND TO ME
AND THEY'VE HELPED ME WITH MANY THINGS.
GASP
WHY DON'T WE ALL ENJOY A MUSICAL PERFORMANCE TOGETHER TONIGHT?
WHAT GREAT TIMING, KIRA IS HERE.
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR IT SEEMS THAT THE CROWN PRINCESS ALSO LISTENS TO YOU OBEDIENTLY.

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NO WAY
I APOLOGISE YOUR MAJESTY
AS ALWAYS, MY SISTER IS EXTRAORDINARILY SHY.
FOR HER TO BE IN A PLACE FILLED WITH SO MANY PEOPLE...
THAT'S WHY I CHOSE TONIGHT.
KIRA IS HERE TOO. I DON'T SEE WHY THIS PRESENTS A PROBLEM.
ABSOLUTELY NO WAY!!
UMM...
ACTUALLY... I...
ALREADY HAD A PRIOR ENGAGEMENT
AT THE UDALIN'S HOUSEHOLD.

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THUNK
HOLDS LESS MEANING THAN A MEETING WITH THE 3RD LADY.
I SEE...
MY PARTY,
I HAVE NEVER THOUGHT OF IT LIKE THAT.
N-NO.
NOT AGAIN~~!
HM...
IS THE 3RD LADY ILL?
COME TO THINK OF IT, UDAIJIN DID LOOK STRANGELY ANXIOUS TODAY.
WELL...
THE 3RD LADY HAS BEEN ACTING OUT OF SORT.
IT MAY BE BE-CAUSE LATELY,
UDAIJIN SAID HE HAD AN IMPORTANT MATTER TO DISCUSS WITH ME.
...

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I WONDERED WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED.
HOW COULD ANYTHING HAVE HAPPENED TO A MAN WHO HAS THE PERFECT SON-IN-LAW?
SNICKER
OR PERHAPS A GRUDGE HAS BEEN STIRRED UP WITHIN SOMEONE IN LOVE.
EH?
I'M LEAVING
RISE
...
A GRUDGE? FROM LOVE?
WE SHALL TALK ABOUT THE PARTY ANOTHER TIME.

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I HAD HEARD YOU WERE HIS MAJESTY'S FAVOURITE
BUT HOW COME HIS WORDS WERE SO SPITEFUL?
HE SUDDENLY DROPPED THE PARTY IDEA ONTO OUR LAPS. I THOUGHT WE WERE DOOMED.
fan fan fan
GOSH... I ALMOST DIED.
...
AH!
A heart broken down
DON'T TELL ME HE STILL HASN'T GIVEN UP HOPE FOR THE 3RD LADY.
BUT THE SECOND THE 3RD LADY WAS MENTIONED, HE TURNS ON ME
HE STOPPED CRITICISING ME AFTER MY DEAR BROTHER HAS ENTERED THE COURT
YEAH, WHY?
hmm

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I HAVE TO GO SEE THE 3RD LADY NOW
I ALMOST FORGOT
EH? BEING CALLED TO THE UDAIJIN'S
WASN'T JUST AN EXCUSE TO GET OUT OF THE PARTY?
YEAH. THE 3RD LADY HAS INDEED BEEN ACTING STRANGE.
I'M FINE WITH EVERYTHING NOW. SO...
HM?
I'M OFF.
SEE YOU TOMOR ROW.
SIS...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORK SO HARD ANYM ORE.

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THAT BROTHER OF MINE WHO FAINTED OVER EVERY LITTLE THING...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORK SO HARD ANY-MORE
SURE.
COMPARED TO THEN, HE'S
YOU HAVE THE 3RD LADY TO TAKE CARE OF.
HEY! HEY!
THINK POSITIVE!
YES, SHE'S DEFINITELY ACTING STRANGE LATELY.

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Sister.
ここ1年ほど 妹も アシをやっています。
消しゴムかけとトーンはりしかできないので"実質はメシスタントです。
けど 低血圧なので朝食は作ってもらえません。
仕事中も 掃除やゆに遠慮なくものを言います。
ゲーーーッ なんだよオマエ ほんとにこのトーンはるのかよ しゅみわりー!!
こいかけちこうキスって
でも 妹のミスで違うトーンをはっていたのです。
妹なんか ー た。
WHEN I TRIED TO CHEER HER UP WITH TALES OF MY FRIENDS AND THE COURT.
It's so funny
THE NEXT SHE'S WAILING
sob sob sob sob sob sob
ONE MINUTE SHE'S SPACING OUT
BLUR BLUR
Leave me alone!
I hate kira-sama the most!
No, no
I'LL DEFINITELY GO AND KEEP HER COMPANY
IF WE AGREE TO IT
MAYBE WHAT UDAIJIN WANTS TO DISCUSS WITH ME IS A RECUPERATIVE TRIP FOR HER
IT LOOKS LIKE A CASE OF MILD HYSTERIA BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHY

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MY BABY AND HERS?!
You're kidding!
IS HAVING A BABY
THE 3RD LADY
YOU'RE ENTITLED TO BE ALARMED
TO BE A FATHER AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE.
I UNDERSTAND YOU MUST BE SURPRISED.
SHE'S ALREADY IN HER 3RD MONTH.
WE'RE BOTH WOMEN--!!
We need to find a good midwife and come up with some names
WHAT FORTUNATE NEWS FOR BOTH THE UDAIJIN AND KIRA-SAN'S SADAIJIN HOUSEHOLD.
YEAH! I WAS LIKE THAT WHEN I HAD MY FIRST CHILD TOO
I CAN'T EVEN FIND THE WORDS...
I'M .. SO HAPPY ...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY
Y— YES

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YOU CAN BEAR IT FOR NOW, RIGHT?
UNTIL THE BABY IS BORN, YOU'LL HAVE TO RESTRAIN FROM 'THAT'.
OH BUT...
whisper
IF I MAY... MAY I GO SEE..
THE 3rd LADY.
OH, YEAH. SHE MUST BE ANXIOUS TO SEE YOU.
LIFELESS
SU..RE.
HE MUST BE SO HAPPY HE'S ALL MUDDLED.
OH~~ MY~~
Ouch
BANG
HIME-SAMA, KIRA-SAMA IS HERE.
PLEASE COME THIS WAY.
OH, KIRA-SAMA
The 3rd Lady's West Mansion

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*T/N Miyako-no-mochi is the dessert that husband and wife eat together after spending 3 nights together as a sign that the marriage consummation is complete

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"ABC"?
GASP
DID "ABC" WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN KIRA-SAMA.
BUT
BUT I...
Nobody heard you right?
W-WHAT'RE YOU SAYING ALL OF THE SUDDEN?!
TELL ME WHY DID YOU DO SUCH A THING?!
...
BE...
STARTLE
MY DEAR!
WHY DOES
THE 3RD LADY HAVE TO USE A WORD I DON'T KNOW AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
ABC
...
THAT IT WAS SOME-THING FOR-BIDDEN..
HOW WAS I SUP-POSED TO KNOW
NO ONE WOULD TELL ME..
BECAUSE KIRA-SAMA WOULDN'T TELL ME ABOUT "ABC".

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I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU!
ANSWER ME!
THERE MUST BE A MAN INVOLVED. HOW COULD THE GODS GIVE YOU A CHILD OTHERWISE?!
IF I TELL YOU, YOU'LL CHALLENGE HIM TO A DUEL!!
WHO WAS HE?!
WHO WAS IT?
EH?
A DUEL?
I HEARD THAT THE YOUNG MASTER RAN AWAY AND BECAME A MONK.
YOU CHALLENGED PRINCE DAIJOUIN-NO-MIYA'S SON BECAUSE HE APPROACHED SAYURI, THE MAID WHO SHARED THE SAME WET NURSE AS YOU.
WHEN WE WERE YOUNG.
I... I...
IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THAT PERSON I...
NO, NO!!
AND HE JUST LAID LOW IN KIYOMIZU TEMPLE FOR TWO WEEKS. HE DIDN'T REALLY TAKE UP MONKSHOOD.
THAT WAS JUST WHEN I WAS A CHILD.

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I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO ON LIVING!
WAAH-HUUU...
HIME
sniffle
I PROMISE
I WON'T DO ANYTHING TO HIM. JUST TELL ME HIS NAME.
WHEN WERE YOU WITH HIM, MY DEAR?
IT WAS
JUST ONE TIME. AFTER THAT, HE NEVER SHOWED UP AGAIN.
BUT
NOR HAS HE COME TO SEE ME EITHER, AND THERE WERE NO LETTERS.
I LOVE HIM!
AND HE SAID HE'S ALWAYS THOUGHT OF ME...
I...
I...

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HEY!
HAVE YOU HEARD?
...
HIME-SAMA
HIME-SAMA
UWAHHH
WAH
WAH
Worry
BOTH FAMILIES MUST BE ELATED RIGHT NOW.
THE BABY WILL BECOME AN EMPRESS-TO-BE OR A GREAT CHANCELLOR IN THE FUTURE. HA HA HA.
KIKA-SAMA HAS SURE WORKED HARD.
UDAIJIN'S BEEN IN A NOTICEABLY GOOD MOOD!
UDAIJIN'S 3RD DAUGHTER.
IT'S A MATTER FOR CONGRATULATIONS
ISN'T HE JUST GETTING FURTHER AWAY FROM ME AGAIN...?!
EVEN WHEN HE WAS BUSY WITH NAISHINOKAMI, HE STILL MADE TIME FOR HER
AS EXPECTED FROM THE KIND KIKA
...
REALLY... THE 3RD LADY

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THERE'S NO ONE ELSE HERE. SAYURI IS GUARDING THE DOOR.
B ..BUT THIS IS...
THE 3RD LADY...
A GRAVE SITUATION...
Senyouden Mansion
IF WE SEARCH FOR HIM CARELESSLY, OUR PLAN WILL BACKFIRE.
YEAH ...
KIRA AND THE 3RD LADY HASN'T DONE ANYTHING
THAT GUY MUST HAVE KNOWN THAT
WE ALL KNOW HOW THE 3RD LADY IS.
THERE'S NO WAY SHE COULD HAVE BEEN... SOILED BEFORE MEETING THE FATHER OF HER CHILD.
OHH ..
STRESSED
WHY WOULD THAT GUY HAVE KNOWN THAT I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WITH THE 3RD LADY?
Of course, he'd know!! Blockhead child.

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HMM...
EVEN SO, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THAT THE 3RD LADY WAS THE ONE WHO
SINCE SHE NEVER HAD EXPERIENCE BEFORE...
...ACCIDENTALLY ENCOURAGED
UM...
HOW AGGRAVATING! JUST LOOK AT THE EMPEROR.
HOW IRONIC IS THAT!
ALL THOSE CONSORTS AND HE STILL DOESN'T SIRE AN HEIR!
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S GOTTEN PREGNANT
BY MEETING A MAN JUST ONCE.
THE 3RD LADY SAID IT WAS JUST ONCE.
When you want it you never get it and when you don't, just once and bam!
ONCE... HUH?
Yeah! There's no way we can control it!
WHEN IT'S TIME, IT'S TIME! EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT IT!
WHEN IT'S NOT TIME, IT WON'T HAPPEN NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRY!!

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WELL...
THE 3RD LADY WON'T SAY ANYTHING.
WHO IS THIS DESPICABLE PERVERT?
SO THAT MAN JUST SAW HER AS A PLAYTHING
LET'S GO BACKWARDS.
MAYBE SOMETHING WILL COME UP
HOW DO WE DO THAT?
IT MUST BE THE WORK OF SOME CULPRIT WHO FREQUENTED UDAIJIN'S AT THAT TIME!!
THAT TIME YOU WERE TOTALLY SWAMPED WITH NAISHINOKAMI'S ENTRANCE CEREMONY AND YOU WERE ABSENT FROM UDAIJIN'S FOR DAYS.
YES!!
IT IS JULY NOW. IF WE COUNT BACKWARDS, IT SHOULD BE AROUND LATE APRIL.
THE 3RD LADY IS ALMOST 4 MONTHS PREGNANT, RIGHT?

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I STILL DON'T GET IT
WELL
Let's erase our investigations off this
Well certainly, that man, for sure
Yes yes.
BUT IT MEANS THAT MAN DID SOMETHING WITH THE 3RD LADY
SOMETHING HE KNEW I DIDN'T DO WITH HER
JUST WHAT WAS THAT SOMETHING?
AND THE GODS GAVE THEM A BABY FOR THAT ONE TIME?
HOW RECKLESS COULD THEY GET...!
ALSO
THE 3RD LADY

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SHE USED TO BE A SWEET AND INNOCENT YOUNG LADY
WHO ALWAYS HUNG ONTO MY EVERY MOVE
AND CALLED OUT "KIRA-SAMA THIS, KIRA-SAMA THAT"
...
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO HIM, I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO ON LIVING.
I LOVE HIM!!
BUT EVEN THOUGH IT'S COME TO THIS, I...
SHE LOVES THAT MAN THAT MUCH...

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Credits

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SHE COULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY WITH THAT MAN BY NOW
IF... I HADN'T MARRIED HER,
I CONCEALED THE TRUTH OF MY GENDER
AND HAVE BEEN LYING ALL THIS TIME
I'VE
BEEN DECEIVING THE 3RD LADY...
NO! IT'S NOT TOO LATE!
I WANT HER TO BE HAPPY WITH HIM NO MATTER WHAT! NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!!
BUT THE 3RD LADY JUST WON'T SAY HIS NAME.
YEAH, THERE IS THAT TOO.

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PSHAW!
HE'S SO USELESS!
He doesn't look it but he's very busy. Sadaijin you know
HE LEFT WHILE YOU WERE RAMBLING ON LIKE AN OLD LADY.
THIS SPLITTING HEADACHE DROVE ME HERE TO COME AND SEE YOU...
OH? WHERE'S FATHER?
LOOKS AROUND
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
THE PROBLEMS ARE PILING UP. HE MUST BE AT LOOSE ENDS.
IT'S VERY LIKELY THAT YOUR SECRET WILL BE EXPOSED INSTEAD..
EVEN IF WE FIND HIM, HE PROBABLY DOESN'T HAVE ANY DEEP FEELINGS TOWARD HER.
THAT MAN HASN'T SENT THE 3RD LADY A SINGLE LETTER
WAIT A SEC.
MOREOVER

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ISN'T HAVING A BABY SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS UNDER GUIDANCE FROM THE GODS?
BUT THOSE TWO ONLY MET ONCE AND THE GODS GAVE THEM A BABY OUTRIGHT.
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
.....
GONG
SO WE'VE BEEN SAYING THAT IT HAPPENED ONCE, JUST ONCE
I CAN'T HONESTLY ACCEPT THAT IT WAS JUST ONCE AND SHE'S ALREADY WITH CHILD?
EH?
WHAT?
UMM... NEE-SAMA
COULD IT BE...
YOU ALSO TELL THE GODS THAT YOU'RE BOTH MARRIED.
YEAH, YOU ASK THE GODS FOR IT...
AND THAT'S ALL?
YOU MUST KNOW THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE TO IT, BESIDES THAT!!
RIGHT?
PERHAPS.. YOU... UMM...
YOU DO KNOW HOW A BABY IS BORN...

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YOU'RE SO PUSHY! YOU HAVE TO SLEEP ON THE SAME FUTON, RIGHT? I ALREADY KNOW THAT.
Seriously, you.
O...OH.
HA HA HA HA
OF COURSE, NEE-SAMA DOES KNOW THAT.
HA...
WHY DO I FEEL SO UNEASY?
JUST TO BE SURE, WHEN YOU SAID SLEEPING, YOU DIDN'T MEAN SAYING GOOD NIGHT THEN GOING TO SLEEP...
NOT THAT, RIGHT?
WHY... OF COURSE I DID.
IS THERE ANY OTHER SLEEPING?

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I HAD MY SUSPICIONS WHEN SHE AGREED TO MARRY THE 3RD LADY SO EASILY
BUT HOW COULD SOMEONE AS BRIGHT AS NEE-SAMA BE SO OBLIVIOUS ABOUT THIS KIND OF STUFF?
?
THAT'S IT
!!
EVEN I KNOW HOW A BABY IS MADE...
OH YEAH...
NEE-SAMA HAS BEEN PLAYING AROUND SINCE SHE WAS A CHILD...
SO SHE NEVER HEARD THE MAIDS WHISPERING ABOUT 'THAT'.
SHE LACKS SUCH PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE.
While this one seems to know too much
and she's already 16
?

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*the male and female reproductive parts of flowers respectively

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BINDS...? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, BIND?
U... M..
IT'S NOT A KNOT OR A RIBBON KIND OF BIND, YOU SEE... UH, IT'S WHEN...
A MAN... AND A WOMAN... ERM... ARE...ARE TOUCHING EACH OTHER AND...
How should I say this ummm
Ermm... well... err...
WHEN THEY TOUCH EACH OTHER...? WHICH PART? IT CAN'T BE THE HANDS OR FEET, OTHERWISE, ANYONE CAN HAVE A BABY JUST BY BRUSHING BY OTHER PEOPLE
A husband and wife's consummation
Hmm
SO WHAT YOU MEAN WAS THAT... A PART OF THE 3RD LADY AND THAT MAN WERE TOUCHING EACH OTHER,
AND SO THEY COULD MAKE A BABY?
THAT'S RIGHT!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I MEANT!!

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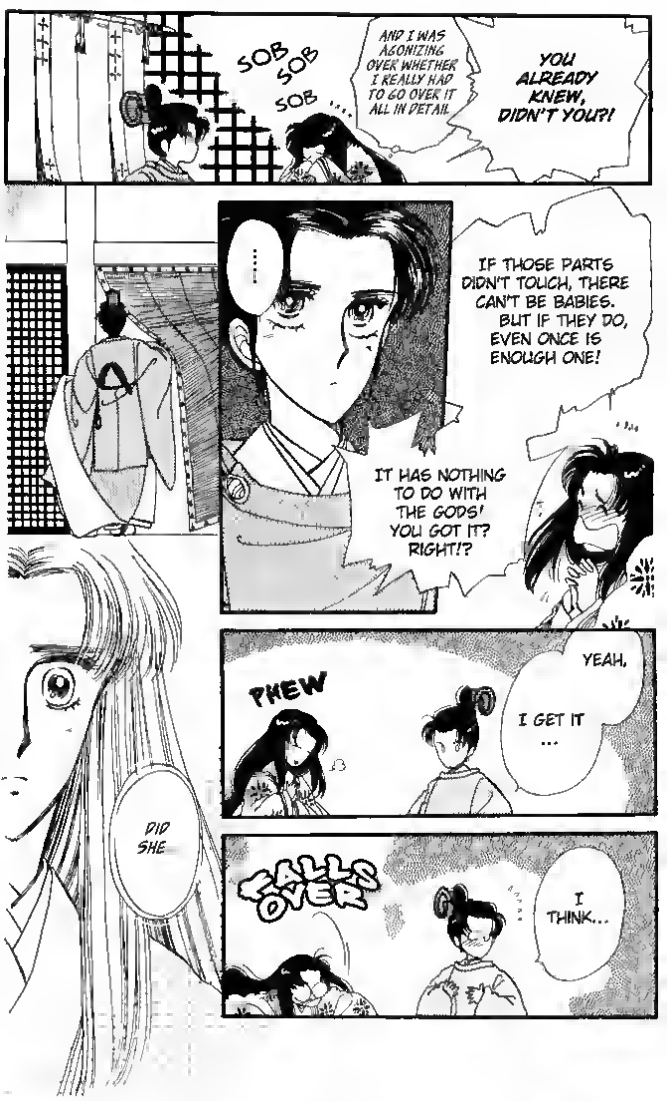
SOB SOB SOB
AND I WAS AGONIZING OVER WHETHER I REALLY HAD TO GO OVER IT ALL IN DETAIL
YOU ALREADY KNEW, DIDN'T YOU?!
IF THOSE PARTS DIDN'T TOUCH, THERE CAN'T BE BABIES. BUT IF THEY DO, EVEN ONCE IS ENOUGH ONE!
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE GODS! YOU GOT IT? RIGHT!?
PHEW
YEAH, I GET IT ...
DID SHE
FALLS OVER
I THINK...

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Home

家事は別に
苦手ではないが
家事をする時間の
ないのが口惜しい。

一人暮らしを始めて一年になります。
ハほうから 引っ越したんですぬ。
現在住んでいる館のわたしのテリトリーにはヤギとウマとサルがいます。
近所の庭も たんせいされているので
四季おりおりの花がとてもきれいです。
空にはセスナも飛んでたりします。

Lady Kira's head was occupied by yet another worry

Though there was another man around who was just as worried.

WORRIES OF

MY HEART FEELS ODDLY UN-SETTLED

REALLY UNDER-STAND ALL THAT?

The culprit:

Saishou no chuujou, who, was in his residence...

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IT CAN'T BE...
IT WAS JUST ONE TIME!!
EVER SINCE THAT NIGHT 3 MONTHS AGO,
I'VE BEEN FEELING MISERABLY GUILTY FOR WRONGING KIRA.
I TRIED TO FORGET HIM, FORGET THAT I EVER VIOLATED THE 3RD LADY BY CONFINING MYSELF ON MOUNTAINS AND IN TEMPLES.
I will forget, I will forget, I will forget, I will forget, I will forget.
BUT, INSTEAD...
MY FEELINGS TOWARD KIRA ONLY INTENSIFIED...
DAMN it!
AND NOW THE 3RD LADY IS PREGNANT!?
THE 3RD LADY IS PREGNANT...!!

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THE 3RD LADY WHOM HE NURTURED WITH GREAT CARE, WHOM HE WAS CAREFUL NOT LAY A FINGER ON, HAS NOW BEEN STOLEN BY ANOTHER MAN.
KNOWING THAT, KIRA WON'T JUST STAND THERE AND DO NOTHING.
KIRA MUST ALREADY KNOW THAT THE SHE WAS WITH ANOTHER MAN..
HE'LL DEFINITELY SEARCH THE FATHER OUT!
PALE
.....
N-NO!
HOW WILL I FACE HIM BACK AT THE PALACE!!?
HOW AM I GOING TO LOOK HIM IN THE EYES!!?
argh-h

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*Mono-imi = One's unlucky day. Each person's is different.
DARN, I CAN'T HIDE MY FACE HERE FOREVER
OR MONO-IMI* TO PLAY TRUANT..
I KEPT INVENTING EXCUSES SUCH AS ENCOUNTERING ILL OMENS
BUT THAT WAS WHY...
I CAN'T STAND NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE KIKA ANYMORE.
MORE IMPORTANTLY,
IT MUST BE FROM ONE OF MY LOVERS
rustle
gasp
THIS IS...
A LOT OF THEM HAVE BEEN HARASSING ME ABOUT MY DISAPPEARANCE
THE SENDER ALSO HAS A MESSENGER WAITING FOR YOUR ANSWER OUTSIDE.
A LETTER FOR YOU, CHUUJOU-SAMA.
LETTER?

One is supposed to refrain from going out on that day. But it is actually just an excuse to skip work.

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FROM THE 3RD LADY...
I have confided it all in Mino, a trustworthy handmaid who shared the same wet nurse as I.
This letter was written under her advice.
By now, I have been with child for four months.
You must know whose child it is.
Kira-sama never reproached me. Instead, he has been urging me to take good care of myself and the baby.
He did ask me though, very kindly, the name the child's father.
Everyday I cry, the pain of my guilt is like sitting on a mat of
Please come to see me once more and give me courage before I lose my will and give out your name.

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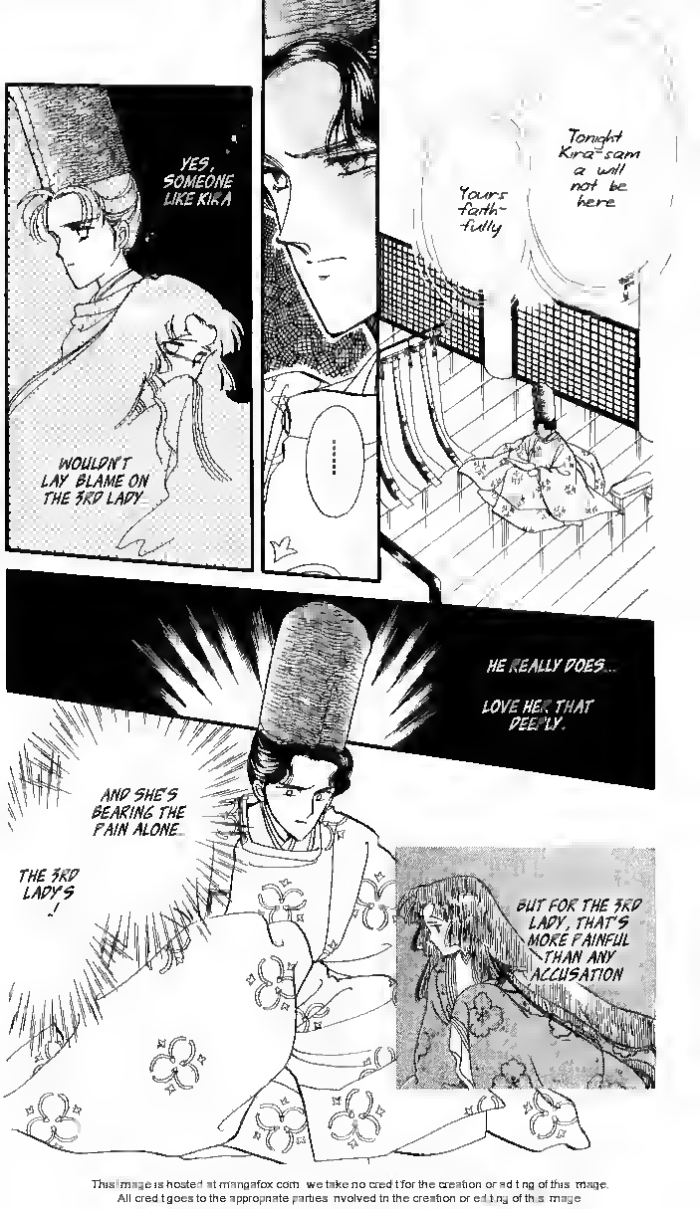
YES, SOMEONE LIKE KIKA
WOULDN'T LAY BLAME ON THE 3RD LADY
.....
Yours faithfully
Tonight Kira-sama will not be here
HE REALLY DOES...
LOVE HER THAT DEEPLY.
AND SHE'S BEARING THE PAIN ALONE...
THE 3RD LADY'S!
BUT FOR THE 3RD LADY, THAT'S MORE PAINFUL THAN ANY ACCUSATION

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Thanks

さちょんに!も2巻目とおりましてありがたや。

ご協力のみなさま方今回で勾締です。

1987 12

Special Asistanes

荒の五～荒八

Yûko Kawakami
Chieko Konnai
Hayao Nanase
Yuriko Matsukawa
Yûki Tamura
Yûko Yamauchi
Noriko Yamaguchi

CREEP

Please come to see me one more time and give me courage before I lose my will and give out your name.

That line scares me the most.

.....

TELL THE MESSENGER THAT I UNDERSTAND.

I'LL WAIT UNTIL NIGHT FALL

Udaijin's residence

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PLEASE TAKE ME AND RUN AWAY FROM HERE!
Eh?
SHE HAS BECOME SO FRAIL
FROM THE AGONY OF THINKING OF ME...!
CHUU-JOU-SAMA.
AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU,
I DON'T FEAR ANYTHING!
N.. NO.
UMM... I MEAN ...

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.....
KIRA-SAMA, HE HATES ME.
YOUR FATHER IS AN UDAIJIN AND KIRA A SADAIJIN.
IF YOU LOOK AT IT FROM KIRA'S POSITION...
I'M JUST A COVER FOR HIS SECRET LOVE AFFAIR.
A WIFE IN NAME ONLY, WHO NEVER RECEIVES HIS LOVE.
HE MUST HAVE SOMEONE ELSE IN HIS HEART.
WHAT?
HE ALWAYS COMES HOME TO SEE YOU.
OTHERWISE, HOW COULD HE NOT TOUCH ME AT ALL...!?
BAWL
CHUUJOU-SAMA IS THE ONLY ONE I HAVE...!!
.....
THAT'S NOT IT!

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THINKING ABOUT IT, THAT MAKES TOTAL SENSE.
WAIT
IF HE REALLY HAS A LOVER AND NEGLECTS THE THIRD LADY,
THE 3RD LADY IS CARRYING SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LOOK DEJECTED OR ANYTHING
I CAN'T TAKE YOU AWAY RIGHT NOW.
HOWEVER, I'LL MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO VISIT YOU MORE OFTEN. AND I'LL CLEAR THINGS UP WITH KIRA TO MAKE YOU MINE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THEN I DON'T HAVE TO FEEL LIKE I BETRAYED HIM, RIGHT!?
EVEN HIS WIFE HAD SAID IT WAS HIS FAULT!
HIME..!
SWEEP

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IT MAY BE PAINFUL, BUT PLEASE BE PATIENT AND THINK OF ME. GIVE BIRTH TO A HEALTHY CHILD.
CHUU JOU-SAMA ...!!
THIS IS BAD, SIR! UDAIJIN-SAMA IS HEADING THIS WAY!!
KYAA!!
HIME...
I HAVE TO GO! I'LL COME TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
I'LL BE WAITING.
SLIP OUT

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.....
rustle
WHAT? THE LIGHT IS STILL ON?
YOU'D BETTER GO TO BED.
YES.
.....
I WAS ON MY WAY BACK TO SANJOU MANSION WHEN I SAW SAISHOU NO CHUUJOU'S CAR AND FOLLOWED HIM HERE.
BUT TO THINK THAT CHUUJOU WAS THE 3RD LADY'S LOVER...!

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Ah
HE HAS BEEN AWAY FROM THE PALACE LATELY BECAUSE OF HIS HEALTH. WHERE COULD HE BE GOING AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
ISN'T UDAIJIN'S HOUSE THAT WAY?
EH? CHUUJOU'S CAR?
IF WE COUNT BACKWARDS, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN... LATE APRIL THAT HE CAME.
YES, ACCORDING TO FATHER AND BRO
BUT I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT UNTIL I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES. THE 3RD LADY USED TO BE SO TIMID
PLEASE TAKE ME AND RUN AWAY!
3RD LADY
FOLLOW THAT CAR.
RIGHT, THE ONLY ONE WHO VISITED AT THAT TIME WAS SAISHOU NO CHUUJOU
AND THE 3RD LADY STARTED ACTING STRANGELY FROM THEN ON TOO.

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ISN'T THERE A WAY TO HELP THEM TO GET MARRIED?
NO DOUBT, THEY LOVE EACH
THOUGH I DIDN'T HEAR HALF OF WHAT WAS SAID, THAT SAISHOUNO FLAYBOY'S WORDS
THE 3RD LADY TRULY LOVES CHUUJOU.
I'M A WOMAN!
THE TRUTH IS
By all means, go on, go on
SO I HAVE NO COMPLAINTS, NOR GRUDGES ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME AND GO GET MARRIED!
PONG
By the 10th month of the lunar calendar, The 3rd lady's belly had swollen noticeably.
our Lord Kira continued be troubled well into the season.
So,
I can't just blurt it out like that Darn it how should I tell them?

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AGHAST!
IS THERE REALLY A BABY INSIDE!?
L-LOO-LOOK... LOOK AT HER STOMACH...
YOU'RE KIDDING ME...
HOW WOULD I KNOW ABOUT THAT KIND OF THING!
EVEN BIGGER? BUT SHE'S ALREADY SO BIG IT'S LIKE SHE'S READY TO HAVE A BABY!
W-WHAT TO DO...?
OF COURSE, KIRA-SAMA, AND IT'LL ONLY GET BIGGER.
GONNG
OH LORD, I NEED TO HAVE A TALK WITH SAISHOU NO CHUUJOU NOW
HA HA HA
OH, MY DEAR BOY, YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING. THE BABY WON'T BE BORN UNTIL AFTER 10 LUNAR MONTHS AND 10 DAYS.

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STILL, I HAVE TO SEEK HIM OUT FOR A TALK RIGHT NOW...
IT'S TRUE THAT CHUUJOU HAS COME BACK TO WORK IN THE PALACE
BUT IT SEEMS HE'S BEEN TRYING TO AVOID ME AT ALL COST...
I'LL FIND HIM NO MATTER WHAT.
TKUMP!!
WHAT WENT ON BETWEEN THE 3RD LADY AND ME!?
flail
flail
DOES HE KNOW
KIRA'S EYES
.....
LOOKS AS IF THEY WANT TO ASK ME SOME-THING...
AGAIN...
IT'S PUTTING ME ON EDGE

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ANOTHER ONE FROM THE 3RD LADY AGAIN...
Depressed
SAISHOU NO CHUUJOU-SAMA
THERE IS A LETTER FOR YOU.
BUT HIS GLARE ISN'T ONE OF RAGE
SIGH
I DON'T HAVE TO READ IT TO KNOW WHAT SHE WROTE
"PLEASE SETTLE THE MATTER WITH KIRA QUICKLY"
SHE ALWAYS TELLS ME WITH BLOBS OF INK SMEARS BY DROPS OF TEARS...
I'M WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE
I FEAR PEOPLE WILL GET SUSPICIOUS SO I ALWAYS REPLY QUICKLY,
BUT THE MAID THEN RETURNS WITH YET ANOTHER ONE...
All for my lady
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO NOT REPLY SINCE HER MAID WON'T LEAVE UNTIL SHE'S RECIEVED AN ANSWER IN REPLY

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ARE EITHER LADIES WHO UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS A CASUAL FLING, OR PROUD ONES THAT WOULD NEVER LOSE FACE TO A MAN
MY USUAL GIRLFRIENDS
AND THAT'S DEFINITELY BECAUSE OF...
AND SINCE SHE'S KIRA'S BELOVED, I'M EVEN MORE NERVOUS
REALLY, THE 3RD LADY'S TURNED MY WORLD UPSIDE-DOWN
KIRA'S UNWAVERING GAZE
CHUUJOU-SAMA, THE ANSWER PLEASE.
Ah
Yes, ma'am Wahh I'm so pathetic!
WON'T GIVE UP
HE STILL

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The man who is Saishouno-c huujou's rival in love,
The bisexual Hyoubu-kyounomiya..
Yes,
Darn it.
I GOTTA RUN INTO THIS PIECE OF WORK.
GREET-INGS, SAISHOU NO CHUU-JOU
AND JUST WHEN I'VE HIT ROCK BOTTOM
LADY AYAKO OF THE LATE CHIEF COUNCILOR HAS BEEN MOST GRIEVED BY YOUR WITHDRAWAL.
IT SEEMS THAT RECENTLY YOU STOPPED ADMIRING THE PRETTY FLOWERS.
HAVE YOU GIVEN UP YOUR TITLE OF PLAYBOY, I WONDER..
.....
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I LAST SAW YOU AT THE PALACE.

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GASP
NEED IT BE EXPRESSED SO EXPLICITLY? RIGHT FROM MY OWN MOUTH?
MY, AREN'T WE NAIVE.
A-AYAKO? HOW DO YOU KNOW SUCH A THING!
IN OTHER WORDS, WE HAVE HISTORY
meaning he likes her
AYAKO
T-TRUE. AYAKO IS JUST ONE OF MY MANY GIRLFRIENDS
BUT WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME
TO HAVE HER STOLEN BY THIS BASTARD OUT OF ALL PEOPLE IS MOST VEXING!!
This bastard
--MR BISEXUAL--
I...IS THAT SO...
OH MY, SUCH A COMMENDABLE GUY! TO MIX WITH SUCH A WILLFUL WOMAN.
HA HA HA HA
CHUUJOU

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.....
YOUR FACE IS TWITCHING.
EH?
EVEN SO, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BECOME SO NEGLECTFUL
AND CAUSED SUCH UNCERTAINTY TO BE RAISED AROUND YOU.
FOR EXAMPLE, KIRA NO CHUUJOU ..
WHAT DID YOU DO TO MAKE HIM SO FASCINATED IN YOU. EVEN I CAN'T HELP BUT SUSPECT SOMETHING.
ISN'T HIS WIFE DUE SOON?
I CAN'T DENY THAT I FANCY KIRA NO CHUUJOU, YOU KNOW TO HAVE SOMETHING YOU YEARN FOR BE SO FAR.., IS QUITE UNSATISFYING, DON'T YOU AGREE?
.....
R... RIDICULOUS!
IS THERE SOMETHING GOING ON BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU?

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FOR THIS, I CAN AFFORD TO SACRIFICE A COUPLE OF AYAKOS. TAKE HER! IT'S MY PLEASURE!
JERK! HE'S GOT GUTS GLOATING ABOUT AYAKO IN FRONT OF ME. LECHER! NEXT TIME YOU'LL BE BANGING ANIMALS, AREN'T YOU!
I WON'T ALLOW KIKA TO FALL INTO THE CLUTCHES OF THIS FILTHY LECHER!
THIS IDIOT HYOUBU-KYOUNOMIYA
DOES IT MEAN THAT
IS GOING TO MAKE A MOVE ON KIKA?
BUT...
I DON'T WANT TO TALK BIG BUT I HAVE ZERO EXPERIENCE IN SEDUCING A MAN THERE'S TOO MUCH OF A DISADVANTAGE BETWEEN ME AND HIM IF WE COMPETE
He has total confidence if it's a woman
IF IT'S LIKE THAT THEN

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THE FIRST ONE TO MAKE A MOVE SCORES!!
WIN OR LOSE
WE'LL FIND OUT DURING THE TONOI THREE NIGHTS FROM NOW...!
Courtiers resting chamber
clack
LUCKILY, I'LL BE ON TONOI* WITH KIRA THREE DAYS FROM NOW.
FROM HYOUBU-KYOUNOMIYA'S WORDS, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT KIRA IS INTERESTED IN ME TOO.

T/N: *Tonoi = Night guard duty in the inner court. Young courtiers took turn doing this.

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I HAVE SOMETHING TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.
UMM... CHUUJOU...
EH?
IT'S ABOUT THE 3RD LADY.
BANG
THAT KIRA... TOWARDS ME...!
COULD IT BE...
I'VE WANTED TO TALK FOR A WHILE NOW.
BUT THE WORDS JUST WON'T COME OUT...
STOP PLAYING DUMB. YOU ALREADY KNOW EVERYTHING!
A..A... ABOUT THAT...!?
BUT I'M NOT HERE TO CHASTISE YOU. YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND AND I DON'T WANT TO LOSE THAT.

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MEAN SO LITTLE TO YOU?
HUH?
DO I...
CHIJU-JOU ...?
AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THE 3RD LADY'S HAPPINESS.
Heh?
NOTHING MORE THAN...?
IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE BEYOND A "BEST FRIEND"?
AM I NOTHING MORE TO YOU THAN A BEST FRIEND...!?
I LOVE YOU.
TH...THAT'S WHY, WE SHOULD COME OUT INTO THE OPEN ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE 3RD LA-
I'VE QUENCHED MY DESIRE FOR SO LONG BUT I CAN HIDE IT NO LONGER.
ZOOM
KIRA!
YES !?

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WHA
AAT...!?
LO
...
LOVE .. YOU SAY..?
MY SECRET ABOUT BEING FEMALE WAS EXPOSED FOR REAL, AFTER ALL!
TH-THAT.. I CAN EXPLAIN... PLEASE.... HEAR ME OUT!!
Chuujou!
HE LOVES ME?
YOU NEED NOT SAY A THING. I DON'T CARE IF I'M CONDEMNED FOR MY QUEER KIND OF LOVE.
I WILL ACT ON MY TRUE FEELINGS NOW.

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A queer kind of love ?!?
Whoa
MEANING HE'S ACTING ON THIS DESPITE KNOWING THAT I AM MALE!?
But this isn't time to be happy
My secret is safe
notes about royal grounds missing
CHUUJOU! REMEMBER! WE'RE ON THE ROYAL GROUNDS OF THE EMPEROR'S COURT. DON'T BE RASH!! WHAT ABOUT THE 3RD LADY!? PLEASE! CALM DOWN AND THINK THIS THROUGH CAREFULLY!
I WENT TO UDAIJIN'S THAT NIGHT TO PROFESS MY FEELINGS FOR YOU,
OF COURSE, I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE 3RD LADY.
SQUEEZE
BUT RIGHT NOW, LET ME ..

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FLEE
KIRA!
AND LOOK BACK ON THOSE CHERISHED DAYS OF YOUTH,--
LOOK WHAT WE HAVE HERE...
OHH ...
DUMB
STUCK
tad
tad
tad
YOU CAME TO SNOOP ON US?
GOODNESS, NO. "TURN AWAY FROM THE LAMPS TO ADMIRE THE MOON DEEP IN THE NIGHT."
I HEARD YOU TWO WERE ON TONO! TOGETHER TONIGHT SO I THOUGHT WE COULD HAVE A CHAT WHILE DRINKING..
HE SLIPPED AWAY, HUH?
I HAD NO IDEA YOU AND I SHARE THE SAME TASTE.
AND I ALREADY TOLD HIM ABOUT WHAT I DID TO THE 3RD LADY
just realized
THIS IS BAD...!
KIRA WILL BE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS AROUND ME FROM NOW ON
THIS GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY WON'T COME TWICE!!

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The Changelings 2 **chapter 8 end / volume 2 end**

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